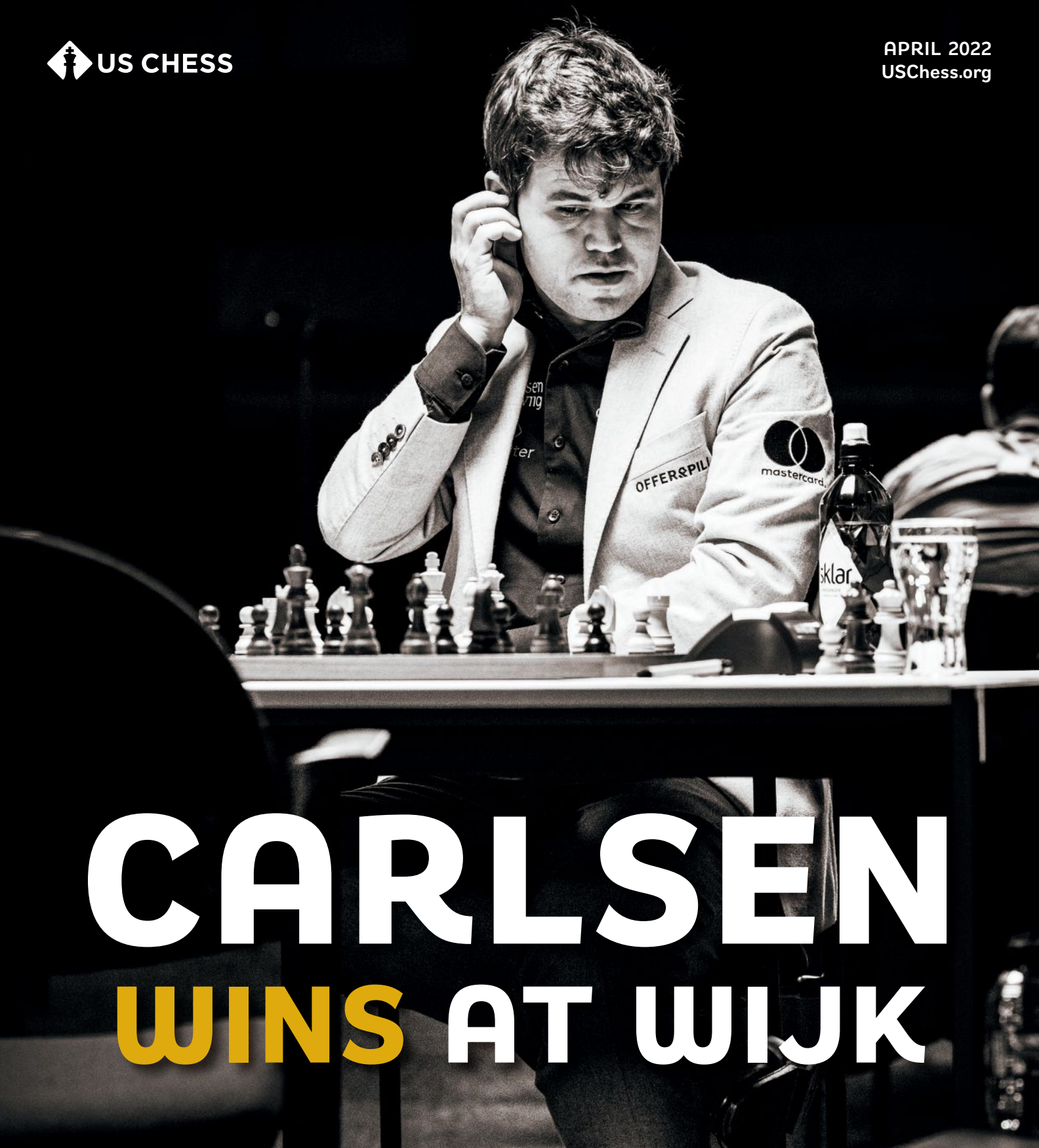
AMATEUR TEAM SOUTH ■ BANFF OPEN ■ NATO CHESS

CHESSLIFE

US CHESS

APRIL 2022
USChess.org



CARLSEN WINS AT WIJK

VISIT…

World's biggest open tournament!

50th Annual

WORLD OPEN

9 rds,Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown

June 30-July 4, other date options

GM & IM norms possible, mixed doubles prizes, GM lectures & analysis!

A HISTORIC SITE

The World Open returns to the Sheratont Downtown, near many historic landmarks including Independence Hall, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Liberty Bell, and restaurants, theaters, museums, shopping.

$139 special room rate. Reservations link & parking info at chessevents,us,.

Masks and/or certification of Covid vaccination may be required.

SPECIAL FEATURES!

1) Schedule options. 5-day is most popular; 6-day leisurely, 4-day & 3-day save time. All merge, play for same prizes. Open is 5-day only, U1000 3-day.

2) Play for norms & big money in Open: $5000-2500-1500 to each of FIDE 2300-2449, 2200-2299, and U2200/Unr.

3) Prize limit $2000 if post-event OTB or online rating 6/28/21-6/28/22 was more than 30 pts over section maximum.

4) Provisional (under 26 games) prize limits in Under 1000 to Under 2000.

5) No unrated in U1200 to U1800; prize limited in U1000, U2000, U2200.

6) Under 2200 & U2000 sections, as well as Open, are FIDE rated.

7) $22,000 International 6/24-28, Philadelphia Open 6/24-26, World Open Amateur 6/27-29, many other side events.

8) Free analysis by GM Palatnik 6/30-7/4. Free GM lectures 7/2 & 7/3, 9 am.

$225,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES!

OPEN SECTION: $20000-10000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-700-600-500, clear win or top 2 playoff $500 bonus, top FIDE 2300-2449 $5000-2500-1500, top FIDE 2200-2299 $5000-2500-1500, top FIDE Under 2200/Unr $5000-2500-1500. .

UNDER 2200/unrated: $12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U2100 (no unr) $2000-1000. Unr prize limit $2000.

UNDER 2000/unrated: $12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1900 (no unr) $2000-1000. Unr prize limit $1000.

UNDER 1800 (no unrated): $12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top Under 1700 $2000-1000.

UNDER 1600 (no unrated): $10000-5000-2500-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top Under 1500 $2000-1000.

UNDER 1400 (no unrated): $8000-4000-2000-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top Under 1300 $1600-800.

UNDER 1200 (no unrated): $4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300-300, top Under 1100 $1000-500.

UNDER 1000/unrated: $1000-600-400-300-300-200-200-100-100-100, Unrated limit $200.

MIXED DOUBLES: $3000-1500-700-500-300. 2-player male/female teams, averaging under 2200, may be in different sections.

Reserve hotel room early! Special chess rate $139-139-159, link at chessevents.us (best) or 215-448-2000, may sell out by early June.

July official USCF ratings used (June FIDE used for Open Section). Unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Foreign player ratings: see www.foreignratings.com.

Prizes paid by PayPal (may sometimes take up to two weeks).

Open through U1400 entry fees: Online at chessaction.com, $308 by 4/15, $318 by 5/15, $328 by 6/28, $350 online or at site until 90 minutes before round 1.

Open Section: All $100 more if not rated 2200/over by USCF or FIDE.

U1200 Section entry fees: All $100 less.

U1000 Section entry fees: $68 online by 6/26,$80 after 6/26 or at site.

Seniors 65/up: entry fee $100 less in U1400 & above.

Mailed entries, titled player entries: see chessevents.us.

If any post-event rating posted 6/28/21-6/28/22 is more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit $2000.

If under 26 total games rated as of July 2022 official, prize limit $1000 U1200, $2000 U1400, $3000 U1600-U2000.

Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). $15 service charge for refunds. Special USCF dues: see chessevents.us.

Bring set, board, clock- not supplied.

5-day schedule: Thu 7 pm, Fri to Sun 11 am & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 5 pm.

6-day schedule: Wed & Thu 7 pm, then merges with 5-day Fri 6 pm.

4-day schedule: Fri 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, merges with others Fri 6 pm.

3-day schedule (not U1000): Sat 11, 1:30, 3:30, 6 & 8:30, merges with others Sun 11 am..

U1000 schedule: Sat & Sun 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, Mon 10 am, 1:30 pm & 5 pm.

Half point byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Must commit before round 4.

PAST WINNERS

1973 Walter Browne **1974** Bent Larsen **1975** Pal Benko **1976** Anatoly Lein **1977** John Fedorowicz **1978** Peter Biyiasas **1979** Haukur Angantysson **1980** L Christiansen **1981** Igor Ivanov **1982** N deFirmian **1983** K Spraggett **1984** Joel Benjamin **1985** Maxim Dlugy **1986** N de Firmian **1987** Boris Gulko **1988** Dlugy **1989** M Gurevich **1990** I Glek **1991** Gata Kamsky **1992** Gregory Kaidanov **1993** Alex Yermolinsky **1994** Artashes Minasian **1995** Yermolinsky **1996** Yermolinsky **1997** Alex Shabalov **1998** Alex Goldin **1999** Gregory Serper **2000** Benjamin **2001** Goldin **2002** Kamil Miton **2003** Jaan Ehlvest **2004** V Akobian **2005** Miton **2006** Kamsky **2007** Akobian **2008** Evgeny Najer **2009** Najer **2010** Viktor Laznicka **2011** Kamsky **2012** I Sokolov **2013** Akobian **2014** Ilya Smirin **2015** Aleks Lenderman **2016** Gabor Papp **2017** T Petrosian **2018** Illia Nyzhnik **2019** Liem Quang Le **2020** P Iniyan **2021** Hans Niemann

APRIL

CHESSLIFE

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For up-to-date chess news and analysis, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

PHOTO: JURRIAAN HOEFSMIT

Magnus Carlsen, squared. Evocative of our modern media landscape.

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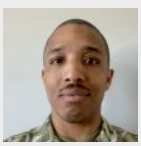
CONTRIBUTORS

GM ELSHAN MORADIABADI (Cover Story) is an active coach and player. Originally from Iran, Elshan came to the U.S. for graduate school and to join Texas Tech's chess program. He won the 2017 US Chess Grand Prix and the Washington International in 2016. In March 2019, he coached Team USA at the World Team Championship in Kazakhstan. After winning a blitz playoff at the 2019 U.S. Open, Elshan was a competitor at the 2020 U.S. Championship, and he recently finished with an even score at the 2022 Spring Classic at the Saint Louis Chess Club. Visit his website: *gmelshan.com*.

ALEX KING (Tarrasch Defense) is a national master and two-time Tennessee state champion. He teaches chess in Memphis and plays piano in his spare time. For more on Alex, check out his appearance (Episode 97) on Ben Johnson's "Perpetual Chess Podcast."

GM JOEL BENJAMIN (Banff Open) is a three-time U.S. Champion and particpant on many U.S. national teams, including the gold medal-winning 2018, 2019, and 2020 World Senior teams. He is the author of many chess books, and his newest title (co-authored with Harold Scott), *Winning the World Open*, was released in January 2022.



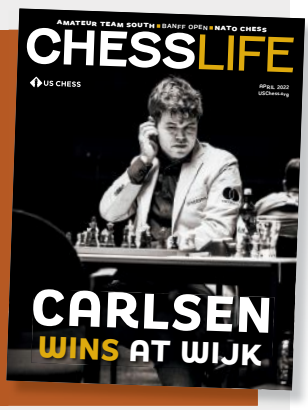
MAJOR GORDON RANDALL (NATO Chess Championship) serves in the Air Force as a Finance Officer at Wright-Patteson Air Force Base in Ohio. During his time in the military, he has competed in ten U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships, and he has been a member of Team USA in five NATO Championships.

MARIETTE DE MEILLON (Amateur Team South) is a full-time data scientist and mom to two teenage boys. Growing up in South Africa, she played chess through high school. After a hiatus of 20 years, she started playing and studying chess actively again in 2018, and is now an enthusiastic adult improver. This is her first article for US Chess.

ON THE **COVER**

What's left for GM Magnus Carlsen to accomplish? After his admission that he may not defend his world championship title in 2023, it's clear that he's looking for new ways to motivate himself. Our cover tries to give a sense of the task he has set for himself, with his win at Wijk being the next step in his journey.

PHOTOGRAPH BY **LENNART OOTES**



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EDITORIAL

CHESS LIFE/CLO EDITOR **John Hartmann** *(john.hartmann@uschess.org)*
ART DIRECTOR **Natasha Roberts**
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR **Melinda Matthews**
GRAPHICS ASSISTANT **Nicole Esaltare**
TECHNICAL EDITOR **IM Ron Burnett**

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MEMBER AT LARGE **David Hater** *(dhater1@aol.com)*
MEMBER AT LARGE **Kevin Pryor** *(pryorkevin@yahoo.com)*

INQUIRIES

Communications and press inquiries:
Dan Lucas at ***dlucas@uschess.org***

Letters to the editor: ***letters@uschess.org***

Advertising and TLA inquiries or TLA display ads:
Melinda Matthews at ***mmatthews@uschess.org***

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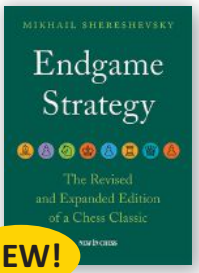


NEW!

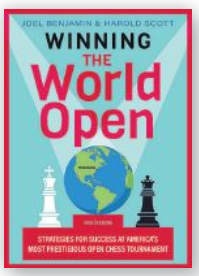
Endgame Strategy
The updated classic with 100 extra pages
Mikhail Shereshevsky

In this widely acclaimed chess classic, Russian trainer Mikhail Shereshevsky explains how to master the most important endgame principles. Where other endgame manuals focus on the basics and theoretical endgames, this book teaches the 'big ideas' that will help you find the most promising and most practical moves in any endgame.

A Compact (but Complete) Black Repertoire for Club Players against 1.d4
Michael Prusikin

The Queen's Gambit is easily the most talked-about chess opening since the Netflix series of the same name became a hit. This book explains the ideas and structures of this classic opening for Black and covers every single variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined. Highly accessible for club players!

NEW!

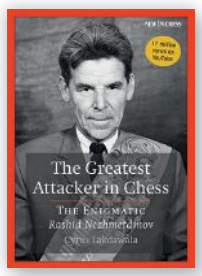


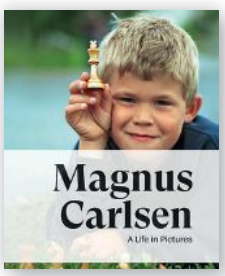
Strategies for Success at America's Most Prestigious Open Chess Tournament
Joel Benjamin & Harold Scott

In this new book, GM Joel Benjamin and Harold Scott present the history of the World Open, from its humble beginnings to the juggernaut it has become today. There are many entertaining stories and scandals that the reader will enjoy. *Winning the World Open* is as entertaining as it is instructive.

The Greatest Attacker in Chess!
Cyrus Lakdawala

Rashid Nezhmetdinov (1912-1974) played fearless attacking chess. His games, full of tactical pyrotechnics, are his legacy and have reached an ever-growing audience on YouTube with more than 17 million views! In this book, Cyrus Lakdawala shows in more than one hundred impressive and instructive games and positions how Nezhmetdinov bluffed and sacrificed, and how he kept his cool to out-calculate his opponents.





Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures
Jonathan Tisdall

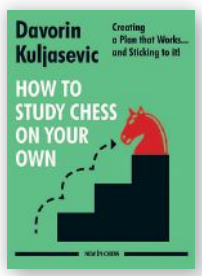
The story of the reigning World Chess Champion. The book shows more than 200 pictures, including some iconic images. Carlsen doesn't shy away from his celebrity status, and was both a G-Star model and a Real Madrid VIP-guest. But his most genuine smile breaks through when he talks chess with his youngest fans, the kids in a chess tournament.

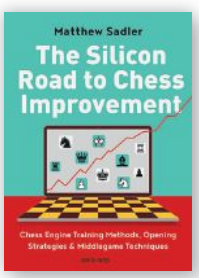
Creating a Plan that Works... and Sticking to It!
Davorin Kuljasevic

Stop wasting time and energy! Optimize your learning process, develop good study habits and get rid of useless ones.

"I recommend this book unconditionally, it will be the standard work on studying chess for years."
Barry Braeken, Schaaksite

"Extremely impressive." – *Richard James, British Chess News*



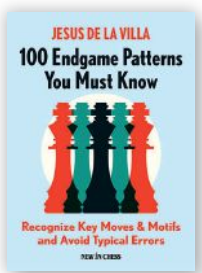

Matthew Sadler
The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement
Chess Engine Training Methods, Opening Strategies & Middlegame Techniques

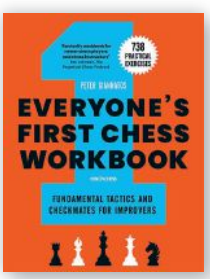
Explains how an Engine can Help Your Chess
Matthew Sadler

Matthew Sadler explains what is best in opening prep and improving your technique: playing training games against your engine! He also shows how the top engines tackle crucial middlegame themes, and presents new strategies that the engines found in popular openings such as the King's Indian, the Grünfeld, the Slav, the French and the Sicilian. Your chess engine can do so much more than just calculate variations!

Recognize Key Moves and Motifs in the Endgame and Avoid Typical Errors
Jesus de la Villa

If you liked the best-seller *100 Endgames You Must Know*, you will surely like this new book by the same author, a Spanish Grandmaster. Endgame patterns are crucial. They help you spot key moves quicker, analyze and calculate better and avoid making errors.





Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers
Peter Giannatos

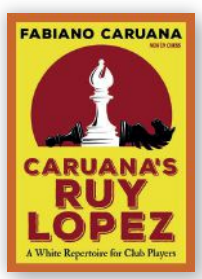
The perfect first chess workbook for adult improvers and other beginners. Coaches might find the book, with 738 exercises, very useful as well. It features a complete set of fundamental tactics and checkmate patterns.

'Beautifully formatted with 3 diagrams per page and tremendous examples.'
Fred Wilson, The Marshall Spectator

Caruana Explains the Ruy Lopez for Club Players

"Caruana, like the late Bobby Fischer, has the ability to make complex material accessible to a wide audience, something not common for an elite player."
IM John Donaldson

"An ideal way for an up-and-coming player to get to grips with the white side of the Spanish. There can be no better training tool."
GM Glenn Flear, Yearbook 141



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US CHESS ONLINE

WONDERING WHERE TO FIND US?

IT USED TO BE THAT YOU COULD READ *CHESS LIFE* ONCE A month to keep up with the world of chess. Today's media landscape has changed, and in our 24-hour, always-on world, US Chess is doing its best to provide members news and information in the formats they prefer. Our internet and social media presence is growing with each passing day, so don't be left behind!

CHESS LIFE ONLINE

CHESS LIFE ONLINE (CLO) is our news page. Here you'll find the latest information about US Chess events, tournaments both large and small, and features like Wednesday Workouts and our award-winning series of podcasts. **uschess.org/news**

uschess.org

USCHESS.ORG This is our front page, and the front door to the world of US Chess. Here you can find your way to your rating, to the latest news articles at CLO, to governance information, and to TLAs. And that's just the start. **uschess.org**

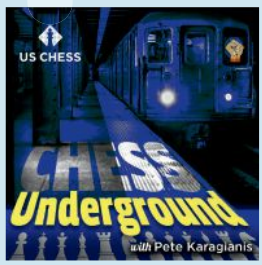
FACEBOOK All our chess news is shared here as it happens, along with more general updates about our organization and the social purpose of our 501(c)(3) mission. Think of it as a mixture of news and outreach. **facebook.com/uschess**

TWITTER This is where we share links and news to keep you updated on what's happening in the world of chess. We're not as witty as Anish Giri or Magnus Carlsen, but we'll do our very best to keep you informed and entertained. **twitter.com/uschess**

LINKEDIN We're still building our LinkedIn page, and we'd love to have you swing by and follow us. This is where we plan to share updates on our progress and development as a non-profit, as well as the accomplishments we're most proud of as we go along. **linkedin.com/uschess**

INSTAGRAM Follow US Chess on Instagram for photos and fun from US Chess events and personalities. **instagram.com/us_chess**

YOUTUBE Our YouTube presence is one of our new areas of emphasis. We're ramping up our content production with interviews with America's top players, and introducing new series like Jen Shahade's "Class is in Session" recordings and John Hartmann's "Leveling Up" instructive videos. **youtube.com/US-ChessFederation**



Is it Tuesday? Then it's *podcast* Tuesday.

Did you know that there's a new podcast every week from US Chess?

You can find links to each podcast at iTunes, Spotify, and Google Podcasts at **new.uschess.org/podcasts**

PODCASTS FROM US CHESS

ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

One letter, two hires!

Ch-ch-changes...

US Chess is pleased to announce two new employees in the Communications department:

MATT MONTA

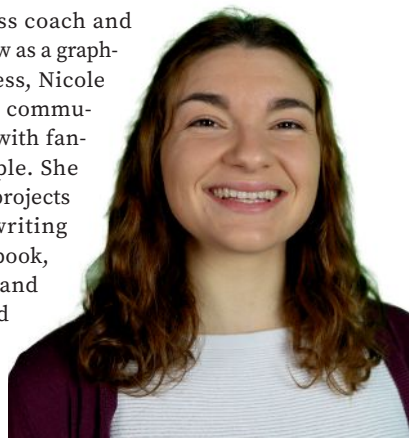
Hired to work on *Chess Life Online* as a digital assistant, Matt is a communications professional with a wide range of experience in state government and the non-profit sector. Throughout his career, he has shared stories through photography, music, video, voiceover, trade shows and displays, and of course, the written word.

He learned to play chess as a child, but didn't take it too seriously until the end of 2019, when a longtime flicker of interest grew into a fiery passion. He started weekly lessons, read every issue of *Chess Life*, and even competed in his first rated over-the-board tournaments in 2021.

Through his commitment to learning the game and its surrounding history and culture, Matt believes chess is a true microcosm of life whose lessons can be applied to any pursuit, material or spiritual. "Anyone can play and everyone can learn," he said. "From logic and planning to practicing patience to accepting and overcoming loss graciously — chess is an endless fount of inspiration."

Outside of work, Matt is a musician, singer-songwriter, and performer who has released several albums and appeared on many others. He plays a Gibson J-45 and a 1985 Telecaster '62 Reissue. Matt currently lives in Richmond, Virginia, with his wife Kristina, who knows how to play chess, and their nine-pound tabby Sophie, who refuses to learn.

NICO ESALTARE



Working as both a chess coach and graphic designer, and now as a graphics assistant for US Chess, Nicole has seen that the chess community is full to the brim with fantastic and diverse people. She likes to keep busy with projects and hobbies such as writing and illustrating a kids' book, playing sports (soccer and basketball), and board games. She is a foodie and loves to explore. Nico also has two cats, Sushi and Boba.

PHOTOS: COURTESY PETER ESALTARE (ESALTARE), COURTESY SUBJECT (MONTA)

They say never explain a joke, but...

In reply to Mr. McAndrew's letter in the February 2022 issue, I would just like to clarify that I do not normally write like that. My December 2021 letter was humorously modeled on Mr. Conrad's letter (October 2021). If you did not notice the similarities, you would be wise to compare the two.

Asher Gordon
Via email

Send your letters to ***letters @uschess.org***. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.

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US CHESS TRUST

Membership Appreciation

Meet the Washington Chess Federation, one of our 2020 MAP winners.

BY **JOSH SINANAN**

THE WASHINGTON CHESS Federation (WCF), founded in 1946, is the official governing body for US Chess-rated events in Washington state and is the only organization to represent the state on behalf of US Chess. Our mission is to support and promote chess-related activities throughout Washington state. In recent years, the WCF board of directors has expanded to include 11 officer positions. Notable additions include our new corporate and collegiate director, Florian Helff, who works for Twitch and runs successful collegiate and corporate online tournaments. We also welcomed a new women's and girls' chess director, WFM Chouchanik Airapetian, as well as our adult chess director, Rekha Sagar. Our new tournament coordinator, Valentin Razmov, has many great ideas on how to improve our tournaments and has helped WCF navigate the evolving landscape of online, over-the-board (OTB), and hybrid events.

When COVID shut down our OTB events in March 2020, WCF was able to quickly pivot to running online events via *Chess.com* and Zoom thanks in large part to the dedication and teamwork of three key people: Scholastic Director Jacob Mayer, Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar, and President Josh Sinanan. Jacob worked closely with *Chess.com* on the technical aspects of launching games and developed a smooth system for running online events. Rekha was instrumental in learning the ins and outs of directing online tournaments, did

The Membership Appreciation Program (MAP) is a year-long membership drive that provides prizes and recognition for affiliates and members who sign up new or renewing US Chess members. In 2020, the Washington Chess Federation topped the State Chapter Affiliate category with 204 membership points.

The Washington Chess Federation

PHOTO: COURTESY JOSH SINANAN

a wonderful job connecting with players, and made sure everyone had an enjoyable tournament experience in all our events. Josh worked tirelessly to set up and promote the tournaments, created a weekly email newsletter featuring the upcoming tournaments throughout the Pacific Northwest, and helped train new tournament directors and organizers in how to run online tournaments. After each tournament run by WCF, a team of experts thoroughly checked all the games to ensure fair play.

The surge in US Chess memberships that WCF generated was no doubt caused by several different factors: 1) people cooped up at home were itching to play online games, including chess, 2) the immense popularity of the hit Netflix show "The Queen's Gambit" attracted new players, and 3) relatively few online chess tournaments, at least in the early months of the pandemic, meant WCF had an advantage.

We also strove to run quality online events that would appeal to players of all levels and ages. Upon the completion of each tournament, a full games .pgn was compiled and sent to all players who competed, along with Zoom screenshots captured during the games and a brief writeup showcasing the tournament's highlights. *Northwest Chess,* our award-winning local chess magazine, reported on the results of each event and featured annotated games submitted by the players. Several foreign titled players, from places including India, Armenia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, became regulars in many of our online events.

Although these players didn't directly contribute to the generation of new US Chess memberships, they significantly raised the level of competition in our top sections and brought in other strong players. We found that there are many silver linings to running online events, and we plan to continue running them going forward!

(MAP)

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PROGRAM

US Chess gratefully acknowledges the support of our our Affiliates and Members and offers congratulations to these 2020 MAP Winners.

PCT GAIN STANDINGS

State	Dec19	Jun20	PCT
HI	160	171	6.9
WA	1474	1548	5
AK	96	95	-0.01
NM	643	633	-0.016
WV	265	259	-0.023
RI	232	216	-0.069
ME	555	512	-0.077
OK	391	358	-0.084
ID	263	237	-0.099
DC	417	362	-0.132

Name	State	Count
Overall Affiliate Standings		
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	831
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	259
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC	NY	216
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	170
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	130
DARK KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	TX	122
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	111
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	101
MECHANICS INST CHESS CLUB	CA	89
CHESS KLUB	SC	77

Name	State	Count
State Chapter Affiliate Standings		
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	204
MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	MD	160
MINNESOTA STATE CHESS ASSN	MN	118
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	105
PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED	PA	83
NEW JERSEY ST CHESS FED	NJ	37
NEVADA CHESS INC	NV	27
MAINE CHESS ASSOCIATION	ME	24
FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION	FL	13
MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC	MA	10

Name	State	Count
Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings		
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	239
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	212
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC	NY	208
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	149
DARK KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	TX	116
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	110
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	103
CHESS KLUB	SC	71
EN PASSANT CHESS CLUB	TX	65
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	64

Name	State	Count
Small State Affiliate Standings		
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	70
JOHN BAPST MHS CHESS CLUB	ME	31
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX	NH	19
METRO AREA CHESS	DC	18
HARRISON COUNTY CHESS CLUB	WV	17
ENDGAME CHESS	NM	10
MAINE HIGHLANDS CHESS LEAGUE	ME	8
RELYEA CHESS	NH	6
KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	NH	6
CHESS CLUB AT NC STATE	NC	5

Name	State	Count
Adult Membership Standings		
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	594
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	93
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	64
ROCHESTER CHESS CENTER	NY	53
CHESS4U	GA	51
MECHANICS INST CHESS CLUB	CA	40
JERSEY SHORE HS CHESS LEAGUE	NJ	30
CHESSPALACE	CA	26
CHESS CASTLE OF MINNESOTA	MN	22
MARSHALL CHESS CLUB	NY	21

Name	State	Count
Member Standings		
RUSSELL MAKOFSKY	NY	26
TANIA KRANICH-RITTER	FL	14
TIMOTHY V. CAMPBELL	MO	14
GILBERTO LUNA II	FL	13
RUSSELL LOYD CRANFORD III	TX	11
SCOTT MASON	CA	10
ZACHARY DEAN	NY	9
THOMAS DAVID BRAUNLICH	OK	9
TIMOTHY TUSING	FL	8
TODD W. WOLF	ND	7

US CHESS

2022 Executive Board Election

CHUCK UNRUH

Chess and OTB tournament competition are still my main hobbies since the 1960s. The game never seems to age with time. My chess origins were in Ohio but I reside in Oklahoma where the family owns and operates oil and gas leases.

My active role in chess governance both local and national level began shortly after 2004. Currently, I serve on the Executive Board in the role of Vice President of Finance. I am honored by the support and trust of my fellow Executive Board colleagues with duties that include oversight of the financial committees, trustees, and investment teams. The Delegates and Board broadened the mission with their actions prior to 2010 and the change resulted in opportunities that allowed US Chess to grow in new and important ways.

Please vote for my re-election to the Executive Board. With your vote I will complete 10 years of volunteer leadership service and a wonderful journey in chess governance.

MIKE HOFFPAUIR

Fellow Chess Enthusiasts,

I am running for my third and final term on the US Chess Executive Board (EB). For the past six years I have been privileged to represent your interests in my service as an EB member. I also have been honored to serve as US Chess President, where I have focused on our governance, US Chess's overall strategy, relations with key partners, scholastic chess, the rules for online chess events, and event locations. With your support I would be honored to continue these efforts. If I am re-elected, I will continue dedicating my energy, enthusiasm, and experience to you. I humbly ask for your vote and, especially, your ideas.

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS WILL appear in the April, May, and June issues of *Chess Life*. They are listed in a random order determined by an online random list generator during a video conference call conducted by the Executive Director and observed by an Election Committee member. Ballots with the candidates listed in the same order will be distributed to all registered voting members whose US Chess membership is current as of May 5, 2022 and expires on or after June 30, 2022. The deadline to register to vote is May 1, 2022.

To check if you are currently a registered voter, search for your name among the list of registered voters on the Link to new Registered Voters page (*https://new.uschess.org/registered-voters).* Learn more about being a voting member on this page: *https://new.uschess.org/us-chess-voter-registration.*

To register to vote or alter an existing voter status, log in to *new.uschess.org*. On your profile dashboard under your membership expiration date you will see an invitation to register to vote in the form of a button or you will see that your status is "Active" and whether you have chosen to vote by mail or online. If you would like to change your voting method, click the "Update Registration" button.

Email *governance@uschess.org* if you have any questions. *–Mike Nietman, US Chess Election committee chair*

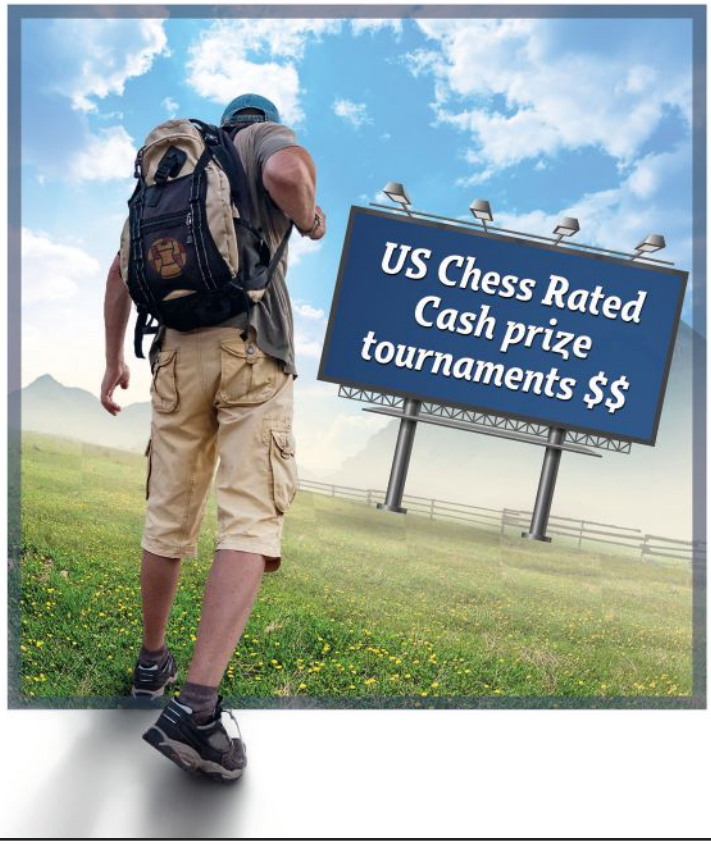
YOUTH CATEGORY

Any Youth category member who wants the May candidates' statements may receive them on request since they do not receive the May issue of *Chess Life*. This applies only to Youth members who will be age 16 or older by June 30, 2022, since otherwise the Youth member will not be receiving a ballot. See the contact information below for Jennifer Pearson.

CALL FOR ADMS

Advance delegate motions (ADMs) for the delegates' meeting at this year's U.S. Open are due before May 23, 2022. They can be faxed to (931) 787-1200; mailed to Jennifer Pearson, c/o US Chess, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557; or emailed to *governance@uschess.org.*

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SUBJECTS



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Tipping Points

When contrarian views become consensus

BY **GM ANDY SOLTIS**

SERIOUS CHESS IS A GAME played with a time limit averaging no less than three minutes a move. That is what the world's leading players declared in April 1988. Anything faster is not "professional."

This was announced at a founding meeting of an organization called the Grandmasters Association. Within two years the vast majority of grandmasters had joined, and the organization said it was entitled to speak for all GMs.

Yet within 20 years, GM opinion about speed chess had changed drastically. Games played at less than a minute a move had become so serious that elite players used their most-secret weapons to win them.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF POISONED PAWN, (B97)

GM Teimour Radjabov
GM Sergey Karjakin
Cap d'Agde rapid, 11.02.2006

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Qb6 8. Qd2 Qxb2 9. Rb1 Qa3 10. e5 dxe5 11. fxe5 Nfd7 12. Ne4 h6 13. Bh4

The Poisoned Pawn Variation (7. ... Qb6), had been a favorite of GM Bobby Fischer and became controversial again thanks to this and other speed games. In Radjabov – GM Viswanathan Anand (World Blitz Championship, 2006) the once and future world champion resigned after with 13. ... Qa4 14. Be2 Nc6 15. Nxe6! g5 16. Nf6+!.

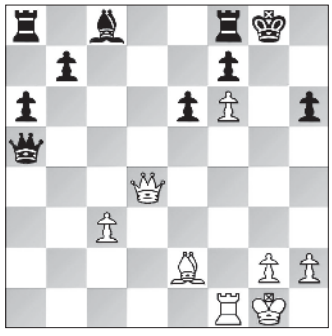
13. ... Qxa2 14. Rd1! Qb2

Innovating in the Sicilian Defense is hardly unusual. But introducing a major improvement in a rapid tournament was. White had saved 14. Rd1!, rather than the book 14. Rb3, for the final, decisive game of this tournament. Black avoided what later became the main line, 14. ... Qd5!.

15. Qe3 Bc5 16. Be2 Nc6? 17. c3?

Both players overlooked 17. Nxe6! Bxe3? 18. Nd6 mate and 17. ... Qb4+ 18. c3 Bxe3 19. Nc7+ Kf8 20. cxb4, with advantage.

17... Qa3 18. O-O O-O? 19. Nf6+ Nxf6 20. Bxf6 Nxd4 21. Rxd4 Bxd4 22. Qxd4 gxf6? 23. exf6 Qa5



24. h4! Kh7 25. Bd3+ Qf5 26. Re1 Rg8 27. Kh2 a5 28. g4 Qxd3 29. Qxd3+ Kh8 30. Re5 Rxg4 31. Rh5 Rg6 32. Qd8+ Kh7 33. Qe7, Black resigned.

The point here is not about the dangers of pawn grabbing. It is the sea-change in thinking about speed chess.

Today, GMs routinely use innovations in rapid and even blitz tournaments that they used to save only for "classical" chess. They are willing to invest hours preparing for a game that will be over in minutes.

After all, if the outcome of a game means a $10,000+ payoff, it is certainly "professional."

Chess has undergone remarkable changes in the last 20 years, if not the last 50. When a change happens slowly, it may seem seamless. But there is usually a pivotal moment, a tipping point, when the contrarian point of view becomes the consensus.

For example, it was a big deal when the first GM-versus-computer matches were held, in the 1970s and '80s. It was a bigger deal when interest in them peaked, in the GM Garry Kasparov – Deep Blue match of 1997. Why did they end?

They ended after a tipping point. A match in 2005 prompted us to realize machines were better than us no matter what silly rules we created to deny it.

RUY LOPEZ (C91)

Hydra
GM Michael Adams
Match, London, 06.23.2005

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 O-O 9. d4 Bg4 10. d5 Na5 11. Bc2 c6 12. h3 Bc8

Adams was one of the world's top ten players and had just finished second in the FIDE world championship tournament.

Here he avoided 12. ... Bd7 13. Nxe5! dxe5 14. d6, with a slight edge, but instead he soon slips into an inferior position.

13. dxc6 Qc7 14. Nbd2 Qxc6 15. Nf1 Be6 16. Ng5 Bd8 17. Ne3 Bd7 18. a4! h6 19. Nf3 Rc8 20. axb5 axb5 21. Nh4! Nc4 22. Nxc4 bxc4 23. Ba4 Qc7 24. Bxd7 Qxd7 25. Nf5 d5 26. Ra6!

(see diagram next page)

26. ... Qb7? 27. Rd6! Be7? 28. Bxh6!, Black resigned.

Resignation came as a surprise, but it is justified by 28. ... Bxd6 29. Bxg7! and 28. ... gxh6 29. Qf3! followed by Qf3-g3+ (or 29. ... Nh7 30. Rxh6 and wins).

QUIZ FOR APRIL

THE MOST POPULAR "game" played by world-class players these days ends in a draw after 14 moves of the Ruy Lopez Berlin Defense. It was quite different 100 years ago when the shortest draw at Vienna 1922 was 21 moves. That great tournament, officially known as the Austrian Chess Association Congress, featured a pantheon of chess greats, including Akiba Rubinstein, Alexander Alekhine, Siegbert Tarrasch, Richard Réti, and Géza Maróczy. Our quiz this month consists of six positions from that tournament. Your task in each diagram is to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean a forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a minor piece or rook. For solutions, see page 58.

PROBLEM 1
Siegbert Tarrasch
Ernst Grünfeld

WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2
Alexander Alekhine
Friedrich Sämisch

WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3
Vladimir Vukovic
Rudolf Spielmann

BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4
Heinrich Wolf
Hans Kmoch

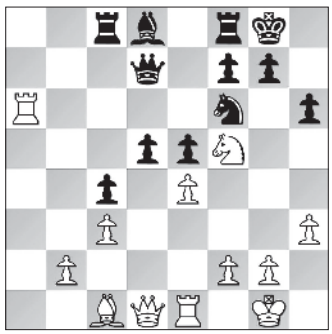
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5
Akiba Rubinstein
Yefim Bogoljubov

WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6
Ernst Grünfeld
Richard Réti

BLACK TO MOVE



Adams managed only one draw in six games. It was shocking.

There was still a GM Vladimir Kramnik – Deep Fritz match to be played in 2006. (It was lost by the human.) But there was little doubt that computers had become our overlords. "We saw the end of humanity," English GM David Norwood said, expressing the majority view of the Hydra – Adams match. "The Terminators have won."

Other changes are much more difficult to delineate and date. For instance, Rudolf Spielmann showed the difference between the riskless sacrifice of a combination and a "real" sacrifice in his 1935 book *The Art of Sacrifice.*

But when did "real" sacrifices become common? Bobby Fischer rarely sacrificed the Exchange before he was one of the world's elite players. He often did in his later years.

When change comes quickly, so does a tipping point. The *Chess Informant* introduced a classification system for openings in 1966, known as the Rabar code, after its co-inventor IM Braslav Rabar. Instead of an opening name, a game would be introduced with letters and numbers, such as "R03b." But this was largely ignored.

However, in January 1981 the *Informant* introduced a new system, the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* code (ECO). A tipping point followed as magazines adopted ECO. *Chess Life* used just the name of an opening in 1983. It added the Rabar code in 1984. Then it switched to name-plus-ECO later that year. It's been that way ever since. That is why there is (C91) in the heading for the game on the preceding page.

You can't tell whether an event, even a highly publicized one, is a tipping point until you see opinions tipping.

Centaur chess, also known as Advanced chess, was a man-plus-machine idea. Each player could consult a computer before making a move.

It seemed like the next big thing — the "Chess of the Future," as it was called in 1998, when world champion Garry Kasparov played a six-game Centaur match with GM Veselin Topalov in León, Spain. Kasparov predicted they would play games at a 3000 rating level, the highest ever for humans.

The result was well below that. Kasparov drew 3-3 against an opponent he had beaten 4-0 in a rapid chess match a month earlier. Instead of a tipping point for the "Chess of the Future," it was merely a curiosity.

So, foreseeing the next tipping point is not easy. Which ones will we come next?

There was a tipping point when descriptive notation began to disappear 40 years ago. Will there be one if figurine algebraic notation becomes universal?

Will hybrid chess survive the COVID-19 pandemic and become a common alternative to over-the-board chess?

Will bullet (one-minute) chess become the new "professional chess"?

Will Fischer-Random and Chess 960 become more popular than traditional chess?

Stay tuned.

IN THE NEWS

BY **JOHN HARTMANN**

Easy Come, Easy Go...

Speaking to his "hype man" Magnus Barstad on a Unibet podcast after the 2021 World Championship match, GM Magnus Carlsen made news for his proclamation that without an invigorating (and younger) challenger like GM Alireza Firouzja, he would likely not defend his world championship in 2023.

In place of his world championship aspirations, Carlsen announced that his interim target was to raise his FIDE rating to 2900. At 2865 heading into Tata Steel — see our cover story on the event in this issue — Carlsen managed to raise his rating by 3.1 points after scoring a strong 9½/13.

And then he ran into IM Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe.

Playing for his club Offerspill in the Norwegian Team League, Carlsen was held to a round five draw by Østmoe, shedding 4.1 points in the process. All of the work (and then some!) done in Wijk aan Zee was undone in one afternoon.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B10)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2865)
IM Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (2466)
2021-22 Norwegian Teams (5), 02.05.2022

1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. d3 dxe4 4. dxe4 Qxd1+ 5. Kxd1 Nd7 6. Nbd2 e5 7. Nc4 f6 8. Nfd2 Nc5 9. a4 Be6 10. b4 Nd7 11. c3 Nh6 12. Kc2 Nf7 13. Nb3 Nd6 14. Nxd6+ Bxd6 15. Na5 0–0–0 16. Bc4 Bxc4 17. Nxc4 Be7 18. Be3 b6 19. Rhd1 Kc7 20. a5 b5 21. Nb6!? Nb8

It looks risky to take the knight after 21. ... axb6 22. axb6+ Nxb6 23. Ra7+ Kb8 24. Rxe7 but Black had 24. ... Rxd1 25. Kxd1 Rd8+ 26. Kc2 Rd7 when the position is fully equal. Exchanging rooks should be easily drawn, and if 27. Re8+ Kc7 28. Bxb6+ Kxb6 it's similarly drawish.

22. Rxd8 Bxd8 23. a6 Nxa6 24. Nc4 bxc4 25. Rxa6 Kd7 26. Rxa7+ Bc7 27. f4 Kc8 28. fxe5 fxe5 29. Ra8+

Here Carlsen missed a trick: he should have played 29. Bb6! Bd8 (of course 29. ... Bxb6 loses to 30. Ra8+ Kd7 31. Rxh8) 30. Bxd8 Rxd8 31. Rxg7 and White is winning.

29. ... Bb8 30. Ra5

Note that the idea from the previous move no longer works. After 30. Ba7 Kb7! the pawn endgame should be drawn.

30. ... Kb7 31. b5 Rc8 32. b6 Rf8 33. Ra1 Rf6 34. g3 h5 35. Kd2 Rd6+ 36. Kc2 Rf6 37. Bc5 h4 38. Rd1 hxg3 39. hxg3 Rg6 40. Rd7+ Ka6 41. Rd8 Kb7 42. Bf2 Rf6 43. Be1 g6 44. Bd2 Bd6 45. Be3 c5 46. g4 Kxb6 47. Re8 Kc6 48. g5 Kd7 49. Ra8 Rf3 50. Kd2 Ke6 51. Ra6 Ke7 52. Ra7+ Kf8 53. Ra4 Be7 54. Rxc4 Rg3 55. Bxc5 Rxg5 56. Bb4 Rg2+ 57. Kd3 Rg3+ 58. Kc2 Bxb4 59. cxb4 Ke7 60. b5 Rf3 61. Rc5 Kd6 62. Rd5+ Ke6 63. Rd8 Ke7 64. Rg8 Kd6 65. Rxg6+ Kc5 66. b6 Rf7 67. Re6 Kd4 68. Kb3 Rf1 69. Ka4 Kxe4 70. Rd6 Rb1 71. Ka5 Kf3 72. Rf6+ Kg3 73. Rf5 e4 74. Rb5 Ra1+ 75. Kb4 Ra8 76. Kc3 e3 77. Kd3 Kf4 78. b7 Rd8+ 79. Ke2 Rb8 80. Rb4+ Ke5 81. Kxe3 Kd5 82. Kd3 Kc6 83. Kc4 Rxb7 84. Rxb7 Kxb7, draw.

In retrospect, Carlsen's playing for an ending against Østmoe may not have been optimal strategy. The 36-year-old IM is an award-winning chess composer and endgame specialist, and his skill showed in holding the draw against one of the best grinders in chess history.

Here's a neat study by Østmoe and Martin Minksi that was published on Facebook in 2016. Solution follows at the end of this article!

WHITE TO MOVE AND WIN

Left: Magnus Carlsen ponders his first moves against Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

The 2022 Indian Championships

It has been an incredible few months for GM Arjun Erigaisi.

After his star turn in the 2021 Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz, an impressive run at the 2021 World Blitz Championship, and a tournament victory at the 2022 Tata Steel Challengers, the 18-year-old Erigaisi added an Indian National Championship to his trophy case.

Erigaisi scored 8½/11 along with fellow GMs Dommaraju Gukesh and Iniyan Pan-

Right: Pranav V asks for a post-mortem in the aftermath of his game with Arjun Erigaisi.

neerselvam, but superior tiebreaks gave Erigaisi the win at the 58th National Senior Championship, which featured 194 players. With brilliant calculative skill lauded by no less than GM Viswanathan Anand, Erigaisi's games in Kanpur were wild slugfests. Here's perhaps the most impressive of the bunch.

FIRE ON BOARD

IM Pranav V (2486)
GM Arjun Erigaisi (2633)
58th Indian Ch (9), 03.01.2022

BLACK TO MOVE

Playing Black in a much worse position, Erigaisi conjures enough chaos to turn the tables on his opponent.

39. … Nxe5!? 40. Bf4 Nxf3 41. Bxc7 Kxc7 42. Nf1 Rxd3 43. Qg3+ Kb6 44. Nfd2? h5! 45. gxh5 exf5? 46. Nxf3? fxe4 47. Qxg7 Bd6 48. Ng5 Rg8 49. Qf6 Rd1+ 50. Kg2 d3 51. Re3 Bc7 52. b4 d2 53. bxa5+ Ka7 54. Qe7 Rg1+ 55. Kf2 Rf1+ 56. Kg2 Rxg5+ 57. Qxg5 d1=Q 58. Qxc5+ Kb8 59. Rb3+ Qxb3 60. Qxc6 Qf3, mate.

The game between Erigaisi and Gukesh featured deep opening preparation and delicate endgame play.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT, SEMI-SLAV, BOTVINNIK VARIATION (D44)

GM Dommaraju Gukesh (2614)
GM Arjun Erigaisi (2633)
58th Indian Ch (5), 02.27.2022

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 c6 5. Bg5 dxc4 6. e4 b5 7. e5 h6 8. Bh4 g5 9. Nxg5 hxg5 10. Bxg5 Be7 11. exf6 Bxf6 12. Bxf6 Qxf6 13. g3 Bb7 14. Bg2 Na6 15. Ne4 Qe7 16. 0–0 0–0–0 17. a4 f5 18. axb5 cxb5 19. Rxa6 Bxa6 20. Nc5 Qxc5 21. dxc5 Rxd1 22. Rxd1 b4 23. Ra1 b3! 24. Bf1

Erigaisi's point is that after 24. Rxa6? c3! Black wins.

24. … Rd8 25. h4 Bb5 26. h5 a5 27. Rxa5 c3 28. bxc3 Bxf1 29. Ra8+ Kc7 30. Rxd8 Kxd8 31. h6 b2 32. h7 b1=Q 33. h8=Q+ Kc7 34. Qe5+ Kb7 35. c6+ Kxc6 36. Qxe6+ Kb5 37. Qd5+ Ka4 38. Kh2 Be2 39. Qa8+ Kb3 40. Qb7+ Kc2 41. Qxb1+ Kxb1 42. Kh3 Kc2 43. Kh4 Kd3 44. Kg5 Ke4 45. c4 Bxc4 46. f3+ Ke5, draw.

The 47th National Indian Women's Championship was won by WGM Divya Deshmukh. After essaying a bold "Swiss Gambit" in round one, drawing against 1429-rated Varshita Jain, Deshmukh burned through the 103-person field, winning seven games in a row before ceding a final round draw to clinch her title. Her eighth-round win over IM Vaishali Rameshbabu, sister of GM Rameshbabu "Pragg" Pragganandhaa, was critical.

PETROFF DEFENSE (C42)

IM Vaishali Rameshbabu (2403)
WGM Divya Deshmukh (2301)
47th Indian Women's Ch (8), 03.01.2022

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. c4 Nc6 6. d4 d5 7. Nc3 Bb4 8. Qc2 Qe7 9. Be3 Bf5 10. a3 Ng3 11. Qa4 Bxc3+ 12. bxc3 Nxf1! 13. Rxf1 0–0–0 14. cxd5 Rxd5 15. c4 Ra5 16. Qb3 Nb4 17. Kd2 Nc2 18. Ra2 Rxa3 19. Rxa3 Qxa3 20. Qxa3 Nxa3 21. Kc3 b5 22. cxb5 Nxb5+ 23. Kb4 Nd6 24. Ne5 Kb7 25. d5 a5+ 26. Kc5 a4 27. g4 Bc2 28. Rc1 Bb3 29. Nc6 Ra8 30. f3 Kc8 31. Bd4 f6 32. Bc3 a3 33. Re1 Ra4 34. Na5 a2 35. Kc6 Ra3 36. Bb4 Ba4+ 37. Kc5 a1=Q, White resigned.

The Swiss Circuit

Here are Open section winners from recent Swiss events across the country!

2022 Southwest Class (February 17-21, 2022, Fort Worth, TX): 1st-2nd: IMs Christopher Yoo, Zurab Javakhadze, 7½/9. 3rd: IM Viktor Gazik, 7. 4th-10th: IMs David Brodsky, Kassa Korley, Dimitar Mardov; WIM Alice Lee; FM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux; Gunnar James Andersen, Shelev Oberoi, 6. Alice Lee earned an IM norm. 390 players.

2022 Minnesota Open (February 25-27, 2022, Plymouth, MN): 1st-2nd: FM Kevin Wasiluk; Okechukwu Iwu, 4½. 3rd-4th: Timothy Radermacher, Andrew Sheehan, 4. 179 players.

29th Western Class Championships (March 4-6, 2022, Irvine, CA): 1st-2nd: GM Timur Gareyev, IM Kostya Kavutskiy, 4½/5. 3rd-9th: GM Enrico Sevillano; IM John Bryant; FMs Michael Casella, Alexander Kretchetov, Robert Shlyakhtenko, Ruiyang Yan; Vladyslav Shevkunov, 3½. 358 players.

Solution!

Østmoe and Minski
Facebook, 2016

1. Qh5+!

If 1. Qh1? Qxh1 2. Kf6+ Kh6 3. g8=N+? (here 3. g8=Q draws) 3. … Kh5 and White even loses; if 1. Ke6+? Kg8! saves the day.

1. … Qxh5+ 2. Kf6+ Kh6 3. g8=N mate.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

One Man's Tarrasch

The Tarrasch Defense for club players. Part 2 of 6.

BY **ALEX KING**

WELCOME BACK TO MY series on the Tarrasch Defense for club players! In part one last month I introduced the main ideas of this opening and presented several examples from the practice of the great Siegbert Tarrasch himself. This month we will jump right into the theory of the main line.

TARRASCH DEFENSE (D34)

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4. cxd5

The most common and logical move, trading a side pawn for Black's center pawn.

4. ... exd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. g3

With this move White enters the theoretical main line of the Tarrasch, developing the light-squared bishop on the long diagonal where it will exert pressure on the center squares and on Black's d5-pawn. White's alternative setups, including 6. e3 and 6. dxc5, will be covered in parts three through five of this series.

6. ... Nf6 7. Bg2 Be7

The bishop is developed to this modest post (rather than to the d6-square) so that if White plays Bc1-g5, the black f6-knight will not be pinned.

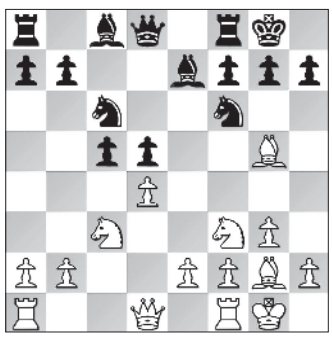
The interesting gambit 7. ... cxd4 8. Nxd4 Bc5!? 9. Nb3 Bb6 has been trendy recently due to the efforts of Russian GM Daniil Dubov, but we will stick to the traditional main line.

8. 0–0 0–0 9. Bg5

The "main" main line. White threatens to win a pawn with 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. dxc5.

Here 9. dxc5 is a major alternative, which will be covered in part three next month.

Also possible is 9. b3!?, fianchettoing both of White's bishops. This setup can also arise through various 1. Nf3 and 1. c4 move orders and will be covered in part five.



9. ... cxd4

An important decision — with this move Black enters the IQP structure we studied in Part 1. There are no examples of Siegbert Tarrasch himself playing this move, but GM Boris Spassky used it five times in his 1969 World Championship match against GM Tigran Petrosian, scoring one win and four draws. GM Garry Kasparov used it extensively in the early 1980s, including his 1982-84 Candidates matches and 1984-85 World Championship match against GM Anatoly Karpov.

A completely different approach beginning with 9. ... c4!? has become popular recently, avoiding the IQP. The move has a good theoretical reputation, but White has various move orders that sidestep it, whereas the IQP approach can be used more universally against a wide range of move orders.

When Tarrasch himself reached this exact position, he opted for 9. ... Be6!? (Rubinstein – Tarrasch, Karlovy Vary, 1923). This is also playable, but it will not be covered in our repertoire.

10. Nxd4 h6!

A useful move to throw in, forcing White's bishop to a slightly less active square.

11. Be3

Note that 11. Bxf6 does not win the d5-pawn, since after 11. ... Bxf6 White's d4-knight is also hanging. After 12. Nb3 d4 13. Ne4 Be7 14. Rc1 Qb6 15. Nec5 Rd8 Black had comfortable equality in Seirawan – Kasparov, Niksic, 1983.

Here 11. Bf4 is less popular than 11. Be3, but it's certainly natural enough. Black can continue as in the main line: 11. ... Bg4 12. h3 Be6 13. Rc1 Qd7 14. Nxe6 fxe6 and now if White tries breaking open the center with 15. e4!? it is not clear that this achieves anything more than simplification. After 15. ... d4 16. e5 dxc3 17. exf6 Qxd1 18. Rfxd1 Bxf6 19. bxc3 the endgame was eventually drawn in Christiansen – Piket, Cannes, 1992.

POSITION AFTER 11. Be3

This position is "base camp" for our Tarrasch repertoire. I have reached it over 100 times in online and over-the-board games with both colors. Depending on your strength (or the strength of your opponents), you may reach it less often if your opponents tend to deviate into sidelines before this point. Here I want to give you two options.

The most common move is GM Garry Kasparov's favored 11. ... Re8, but I think it feels slightly more natural to develop all the minor pieces first with GM Boris Spassky's preferred 11. ... Bg4. One idea behind 11. ... Re8 is that it retains the option of developing the light-squared bishop to other squares.

Either way, the two moves simply transpose in many cases. If you do reach this position frequently, you may wish to mix and match the two moves to keep your opponents guessing.

Garry Kasparov, 1985

Kasparov's Move

POSITION AFTER 11. ... Re8

12. Rc1

Other options:

(a) 12. Qa4 Bd7! 13. Rad1 Nb4 14. Qb3 a5 15. Rd2 a4 with counterplay on the queenside in Beliavsky – Kasparov, Candidates (2), Moscow, 1983.

(b) 12. Qb3 Na5! 13. Qc2 Bg4 14. Nf5 was Kasparov's most famous Tarrasch loss — see Karpov – Kasparov, WCh (7), Moscow, 1984 — but subsequently an improvement was found: 14. ... Bb4! 15. Bd4 Bxc3 16. Bxc3 Rxe2 and Black is fine (Ehlvest – Grischuk, Tehran, 2000).

12. ... Bf8!?

Note that 12. ... Bg4 is essentially the same as 11. ... Bg4. The idea behind this move is that it activates the e8-rook while keeping an eye on the critical c5-square.

13. Nxc6

Again here the paths diverge.

(a) 13. Nb3 Be6 defends the d5-pawn, after which Black had a solid position and went on to make a comfortable draw in Petrosian – Spassky, WCh (18), Moscow, 1969.

(b) 13. a3!? can also be met with 13. ... Be6 14. Nxe6 fxe6, reaching the same structure as in Fishbein – King below.

(c) 13. Qb3!? Na5 14. Qb5 a6 15. Qd3 is an overly subtle triangulation; Black can again continue with the simple 15. ... Be6.

(d) 13. Na4 Bd7 (a modest but solid way to develop) 14. Nc5 Bxc5 15. Rxc5 Qe7. As in other lines below, the time that White has spent acquiring the bishop pair has lessened the pressure on the d5-pawn and allowed Black to both complete development and maintain a slight space advantage.

13. ... bxc6 14. Na4

This is by far White's most common continuation in practice.

14. ... Bd7 15. Bc5 Bxc5 16. Nxc5 Bg4

Black has not lost any more time than White has, while keeping healthy piece activity. This activity was enough to easily hold a draw in a game from the 2001 World Correspondence Championship (Romanov – Soltau, WCh corr, 2001).

17. Re1 Qa5 18. h3 Bf5 19. Qd4 Rab8 20. a3 Qb6 21. b3 Nd7 22. b4 a5 23. e4 axb4 24. axb4 Bg6 25. Qc3 Nf8 26. exd5 Rxe1+ 27. Rxe1 cxd5 28. Bxd5 Qxb4 29. Qxb4 Rxb4 30. Re7 Rb1+ 31. Kg2 Rd1 32. Bb3, draw.

PHOTO: NATIONAAL ARCHIEF / ANEFO, ROB BOGAERTS

Boris Spassky, 1956

Spassky's Move

POSITION AFTER 11. ... Bg4

12. h3

White includes the same useful "tickle" to Black's bishop that Black did earlier. If White does without this move, e.g., 12. Rc1 Qd7, then Black's light-squared bishop has more options, including a later ... Bg4-h3 to trade off White's powerful light-squared bishop.

(a) You should remember to meet 12. Qa4 with 12. ... Na5! (rather than *12. ... Qd7 13. Bxd5!* winning a pawn, although even here Black can end up with some compensation) 13. Rad1 Nc4 and now 14. Qb3!? (after the more restrained *14. Bc1 Nb6* Black has reinforced the d5-pawn and will continue to complete development normally) prepares to again steal the d5- or b7-pawns. Black should play 14. ... Rc8 15. Qxb7 Rb8 16. Qxa7 Ra8 17. Qb7 Rb8 18. Qa6 Nxe3 19. fxe3 Rxb2 with compensation via the bishop pair and White's shattered structure.

(b) The position after 12. Nb3 Be6 13. Rc1 Re8 14. Nb5 (*14. Re1 Qd7* is comfortable for Black, and led to Spassky's most successful Tarrasch result in the 1969 World Championship match) 14. ... Qd7 15. N5d4 Bh3 16. Nxc6 bxc6 and Black is fully equal as in Petrosian – Spassky, WCh (2), Moscow, 1969. Note that White cannot win a pawn with 17. Bxh3? Qxh3 18. Rxc6?? due to 18. ... Ng4 forcing mate.

12. ... Be6

Generally the most reliable retreat for the bishop, even though White can trade it off.

13. Rc1

Other moves here:

(a) After 13. Nxe6 fxe6, a somewhat Tarrasch-specific pawn structure is reached, which I think of as "central hanging pawns" as it has similarities to the normal hanging pawns structure resulting from Nd4xc6 / ... b7xc6. In both cases Black's d-pawn is strengthened, but its supporting pawn is somewhat more vulnerable.

POSITION AFTER 13. ... fxe6

A recent game of mine continued 14. Qb3 Na5 15. Qc2 Nc4 16. Bf4 Rc8 and the position is about equal, although my GM opponent eventually beat me in a tough fight (Fishbein – King, Jackson, 2021).

(b) 13. Qa4!? Qd7 14. Kh2 a6 15. Rad1 b5 16. Qc2 is another queen manuever to provoke the loosening of Black's queenside, but I find it a bit of an abstract achievement compared to Black's comfortable development.

(c) As mentioned above, White's other structural transformation 13. Nxc6 bxc6 is common in practice, but not particularly critical. Play can continue 14. Na4 Re8 15. Rc1 Qd7 16. Kh2 transposing to Zueger – Kasparov below.

13. ... Qd7

Not the only move, but this is the most common square for Black's queen. And if your opponent isn't paying attention, you can snap off the h3-pawn for free! (This sounds like a joke, but you would not believe how many times this has actually happened for me!)

14. Kh2 Rfe8

The opening has essentially concluded, with Black's last rook ready to develop to the c8- or d8-square.

White has the better pawn structure and Black has space and active pieces. The winner will be the player who does the better job of this, or, more likely, the player who makes the fewest tactical mistakes along the way.

To wash down all of this detailed theory, here is a final sparkling treat by the great Kasparov, from a clock simul against the six members of the Swiss national team:

15. Nxc6 bxc6 16. Na4 Bf5 17. Bc5 Bd8 18. Bd4 Ne4 19. f3 Ng5 20. Nc5 Qe7 21. e4 dxe4 22. fxe4 Bg6 23. e5 Bb6?

Preparing the following flurry of sacrifices, but objectively safer was 23. ... Bc7.

24. h4 Rad8!? 25. hxg5 Qxg5 26. Qa4 Qh5+ 27. Kg1 Rxe5!? 28. Bxe5 Qxe5 29. Qb4?

Here 29. Qc4! would consolidate with the extra material.

29. ... Rd3! 30. Rf2 Rxg3 31. Qf4 Rxg2+!! 32. Kxg2 Qd5+ 33. Kg3 Bxc5 34. Rd2 Qh5 35. Qg4?

White is still okay after 35. Rh2!?.

35. ... Qe5+ 36. Qf4 Qe7! 37. Rc3 Bb6 38. Kg2 Qe1 39. Rc1 Qe6 40. Qg3 Be4+ 41. Kh2 Qf5

White could no longer find a way to defend in Zueger – Kasparov, Simul, Switzerland, 1987, so he **resigned.** (Who says rooks are better than bishops?)

In Part 3 next month we will examine the other main line 9. dxc5, as well as various lines where White plays d4xc5 earlier.

PHOTO: NATIONAAL ARCHIEF / ANEFO, JOOP VAN BILSEN

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MAIN EVENT
6-SS, G/90,d5

Friday April 22
2:30 PM Opening Ceremony
3:00 PM Round 1

Saturday April 23
10:00 AM Round 2
2:30 PM Round 3
6:30 PM Round 4

Sunday April 24
9:00 AM Round 5
1:00 PM Round 6
5:00 PM Awards Ceremony

ENTRY FEE
$80 postmarked by 3/14, $95 by 4/11, $105 after/on-site.

SIDE EVENTS
Bughouse Tournament
Fri. April 22 11:00 AM
Entry fee: $40 per team

Blitz Tournament (G/5,d0)
Fri. April 22 7:00 PM
Entry fee: $30 4/11, $35 after/on-site.

SECTION/AWARDS
Age as of 1/1/2022
Under 8 top 15 individuals
top 500 – 799, top U500, top 6 schools
Under 10 top 15 individuals
top 700 – 999, top U700, top 6 schools
Under 12 top 15 individuals
top 900 – 1199, top U900, top 6 schools
Under 14 top 15 individuals
top 1100 – 1399, top U1100, top 4 schools
Under 16 top 8 individuals
top 1300 – 1599, top U1300, top 3 schools
Under 18 top 8 individuals,
top 1500 – 1799, top U1500, top 3 schools

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Benjamin on banff

IM Plotkin wins 2021 Banff Open, GM Benjamin takes second.

BY **GM JOEL BENJAMIN**

PHOTO: KIMBERLY GENEST / UNSPLASH

Left: The magisterial mountains of Banff National Park. Right: GM Joel Benjamin never forgets to rep his hometown teams on his travels.

PHOTO: COURTESY IAN FINDLAY

DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF Alberta, Canada, FM Ian Findlay has been organizing a small but well-received tournament since 2016. I had heard a bit about the Banff Open from two-time winner IM Mark Ginsburg's posts on social media. So when my old friend Ian invited me, I knew it would be a worthwhile trip.

The Banff Open was a COVID-19 casualty in 2020, and even this year the tournament was in jeopardy. A spike in COVID cases in Alberta led to necessary restrictions, but cancellations of other conventions actually provided more space for chess at the Banff Centre and made social distancing easy.

IM Mark Plotkin, making his first trip out to Banff from Ontario, took first place with 5½/6. He earned $2,100 (all prizes in Canadian dollars): $1,600 plus the $500 Armageddon bonus. I took the second prize of $800 with five points.

It was a bit surreal to look out the large windows of the site and see mountains all around. Maybe that caused many of the top seeds to stumble out of the gate. IMs David Cummings and Mark Plotkin were held to draws in the first round, the latter nearly suffering a loss to 12-year-old Leo Lin.

SURPRISE!

Leo Lin (CAN 1947)
IM Mark Plotkin (CAN 2549)
Banff Open (1), Banff, 11.12.2021

WHITE TO MOVE

29. Bxe6!

Lin shocked the house with this move, the point being 29. ... Qxe6 30. Rxh4+ Kg6 31. Rf1! Rh7 32. Rg4+ is utterly decisive. Plotkin staggered into a lost endgame but somehow held:

29. ... Rxg2 30. Bxg8+ Rxg8 31. Qf2 Rg4 32. Qf5+ Qg6 33. Qxg6+ Kxg6 34. Rg1 Kh5 35. Rxg4 Kxg4 36. Kg2 a5 37. a4 Bf4 38. Rd3 Be5 39. Rf3 Bxh2 40. Rf7 Be5 41. Rxc7 h3+ 42. Kh1 Kf4 43. Ra7

Stronger still was 43. Rc6! Kxe4 44. Ra6 Bc3 45. Rxd6.

43. ... Bc3 44. Ra6 Ke5 45. Kh2 Bb4 46. Kxh3 c4 47. Rc6 cxb3 48. cxb3 Kxe4 49. Kg4

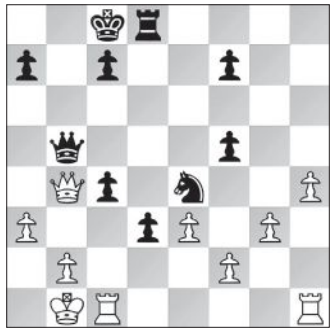
The only winning chances came with 49. Rc4+! Ke5 (*49. ... Ke3 50. Rxb4 axb4 51. a5*) 50. Kg3. Now Black can hold.

49. ... d5 50. Re6+ Kd3 51. Kf4 d4 52. Rc6 Ke2 53. Rc2+ Kd1 54. Rc4 d3 55. Ke3 d2 56. Kd3 Bd6 57. Rd4 Be7 58. Rd7 Bb4 59. Rd5 Kc1 60. Ke2 Kc2 61. Rd3 Bc3 62. Rd5 Kxb3 63. Rxd2 Bxd2 64. Kxd2 Kxa4 65. Kc2 Ka3 66. Kb1 Kb3 67. Ka1 a4 68. Kb1 a3 69. Ka1 a2, draw.

I was also not immune to the upset bug. My second-round opponent, Alberta junior champion Paris Dorn, blitzed out a bunch of moves against my Black Knights Tango, an opening I haven't played in years. I forgot my analysis and had to turn around a bad position.

TRICKY TRAPS

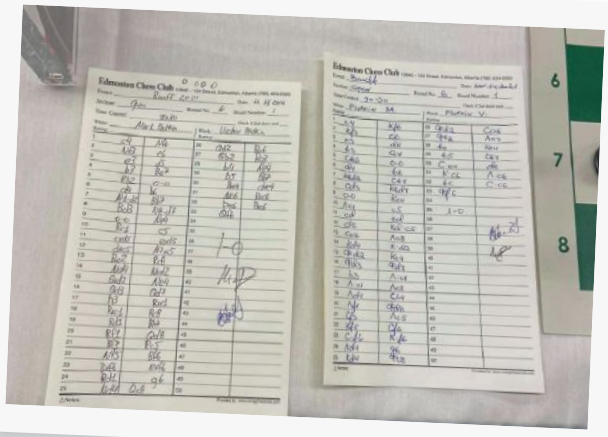
Paris Dorn (CAN 2141)
GM Joel Benjamin (CAN 2640)
Banff Open (2), Banff, 11.12.2021



BLACK TO MOVE

Here **35. ... Qa6** may not be the best, but it sets a delicious trap my opponent fell into: **36. Ka2? d2!** and now 37. Rcd1 c5! traps the queen! He had to try **37. Rxc4,** and I relaxed a bit with **37. ... d1=Q??** which actually seems to lose! Instead, 37. ... Nxf2 was good, but 37. ... Qe6! was likely winning after 38. Rd1 Nxf2 39. Qc5 c6 40. Qxc6+ Qxc6 41. Rxc6+ Kb8 42. Rxd2 Rxd2 43. Rf6 Nd1. The game concluded **38. Rxd1 Rxd1 39. Qf8+ Rd8 40. Qxf7 Qa5 41. Qe6+ Rd7 42. Qe8+ with a draw** by repetition, but as FM Victor Plotkin (Mark's father) pointed out, 42. Rd4! Nd6 43. h5 would have left me hopelessly tied up.

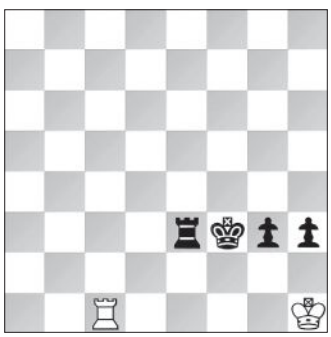
The consolation for this misstep was the dinner party at Chez Findlay. In past years Ian and his wife Janice have hosted around 150 guests, but with COVID restrictions they just brought in small groups, one by one. So the Plotkins and I were waiting for Ginsburg to wrap up a long endgame.



Left (L to R): FM Ian Findlay, FM Victor Plokin, IM David Cummings. Below: The 'dueling' scoresheets from the round six intra-Plotkin family battle! Right: The views at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity are amazing!

PRECISE MEASURES

Paul Wang (CAN 2137)
IM Mark Ginsburg (CAN 2414)
Banff Open (2), Banff, 11.12.2021



BLACK TO MOVE

In this position Mark raised some eyebrows with **1. ... h2,** but he had calculated correctly. Stalemate tries fall short; e.g., 2. Rf1+ Kg4 3. Rf4+ Kh3 4. Rh4+ Kxh4 releasing the stalemate. The players banged down **2. Rc3 g2+!** and **White resigned.**

I was thinking that Black should try ... Re3-e4-f4 and ... Kf3-g4, after which ... h3-h2 concludes. I won a game like that in 2019. The Plotkins advocated for the systematic ... Re3-d3, ... Kf3-e2, and ... Rd3-d1+ swapping rooks. It's all good as long as you watch out for stalemate.

Both Plotkins turned it up a notch as the tournament went on. Mark won four in a row after his upset draw, including this wonderfully aesthetic finish in the fourth round against Hans Jung.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D30)

IM Mark Plotkin (CAN 2549)
Hans Jung (CAN 2210)
Banff Open (4), Banff, 11.13.2021

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 d5 4. d4 c6 5. Bd3 Nbd7 6. b3 b6 7. 0–0 Bb7 8. Bb2 dxc4 9. bxc4 c5?! 10. d5! exd5 11. cxd5 Bxd5 12. e4 Bc6 13. e5 Ne4 14. Qe2 Ng5 15. Nxg5 Qxg5 16. f4 Qe7 17. Nc3 0–0–0 18. Ne4 Qe8 19. Rad1 Be7 20. Bc4 f6 21. Nd6+ Bxd6 22. Rxd6 Nb8 23. Qg4+ Bd7 24. Qxg7 fxe5 25. Bxe5 Qf8

26. Rc6+!!, Black resigned.
Black gave up in the face of unstoppable mate, 26. ... Bxc6 (*26. ... Nxc6 27. Ba6* mate; *26. ... Kb7 27. Rc7+ Ka8 28. Bd5+*) 27. Qc7 mate.

Meanwhile Victor conceded just one draw to Keith Mackinnon. By outlasting FM Gary Ng in the longest game of the tournament in round five, Victor set up a Plotkin showdown for all the marbles.

ENGLISH OPENING (A13)

IM Mark Plotkin (CAN 2549)
FM Victor Plotkin (CAN 2428)
Banff Open (6), Banff, 11.14.2021

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 d5 4. b3 Be7 5. Bb2 0–0 6. d4 b6 7. Nbd2 Bb7 8. Bd3 Nbd7 9. 0–0 Ne4 10. Rc1 c5 11. cxd5 exd5 12. dxc5 Ndxc5 13. Be2 Rc8 14. Nd4 Nxd2 15. Qxd2 Ne4 16. Qd3 Qd7 17. h3 Rxc1 18. Rxc1 Rc8 19. Rd1 Bh4 20. Rf1 Qd8 21. Bf3 Rc5 22. Nf5 Bf6 23. Bxf6 Nxf6 24. Rd1 g6 25. Nd4 Qc8 26. Qd2 Ba6 27. Qb2 Rc3 28. b4 Ne4?
A critical error. Better was 28. ... Rc7 when Black can struggle on.

29. b5 Bb7 30. Bxe4 dxe4 31. Nc6! Rxc6 32. bxc6 Bxc6 33. Qf6, Black resigned.

What kind of a man would beat his own father? But seriously, young and old Plotkin have met in important games several times and have generally duked it out. Mark admitted to me after the game that he thought the entire first prize would go to the winner of the Armageddon match, rather than just the $500 bonus, so he wanted to avoid a first-place tie at all costs. In this case, ignorance was bliss.

My last round victory over David Miller did not produce a playoff but did get me clear second place after Cummings could not win an overwhelming position against FM Dale Haessel, while Ginsburg lost a see-saw game to Ng.

PHOTOS: COURTESY BHAVIK DAVE

RUY LOPEZ (C79)

David Miller (CAN 2224)
GM Joel Benjamin (CAN 2640)
Banff Open (6), Banff, 11.14.2021

1. e4 Nc6
Had I not learned my lesson from round two? No, I had seen my opponent liked the King's Gambit, so I went for a move order trick.

2. Nf3 e5 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. c3 Nf6 6. d4 Bd7 7. 0–0 g6 8. Re1 Bg7 9. dxe5 Nxe5 10. Nxe5 dxe5 11. Bxd7+ Qxd7 12. Qxd7+ Nxd7
The position is greatly simplified, but I took a page out of the book of Plotkin (senior). He got to 4½/5 by trading pieces into equal positions, so I would try the same method.

13. Nd2
The strategy starts to pay off — 13. Be3 is completely equal.

13. ... Nc5 14. Nb3 Nd3 15. Rd1 0–0–0 16. Kf1 f5 17. exf5 gxf5 18. Bg5 Rd7 19. Rd2 h6 20. Bh4 e4?
The right move order to maintain my knight on the d3-square is 20. ... c5 21. Rad1 c4 22. Nc1 e4 with an iron grip.

21. Rad1 Rd6
Here 21. ... c5 22. Rxd3! Rxd3 23. Rxd3 exd3 24. Nxc5 looks fine for White.

22. Nc1 Nxb2?
This leads to a totally murky position. After 22. ... Nxc1 23. Rxd6 cxd6 24. Rxc1 Kd7 Black's position is a lot easier to play.

23. Rxd6 cxd6 24. Rxd6 Be5 25. Rd5 Re8 26. Nb3 Na4

27. Na5
I thought this quite resourceful, especially in comparison with 27. Nd4? Nxc3 28. Rc5+ Kd7 29. Nxf5 b6 30. Rc4 b5 31. Rc5 Nxa2. But it turns out that the knight is not actually threatening to take the c3–pawn! For instance, 27. Ra5 Nxc3? 28. Rxe5 Rxe5 29. Bf6, or 27. c4 Nc3? (*27. ... Nb6*) 28. Rxe5! again.

27. ... Nxc3 28. Rc5+ Kd7
Not 28. ... Kb8? 29. Rxe5 Rxe5 30. Bg3 — this skewer I saw!

29. Nc4 Bd4 30. Rxf5 b5 31. Nd2 Ke6?! 32. Rh5?!
Mutual time pressure errors. 31. ... a5 and 32. g4 should have been played.

32. ... Bg7 33. Nb3 a5 34. Nxa5 Ra8 35. Nc6 Rxa2
After being dominated by that stealthy h4-bishop for so many moves, it felt great to get my rook out of the box! Still, the game would remain tight after 36. g4!

36. g3? Kd7 37. Nb4 Rb2 38. Nd5 Nxd5 39. Rxd5+ Ke6 40. Rd8 b4 41. Re8+ Kd5 42. Re7 Bc3 43. Rd7+ Kc4 44. Re7 Kd3 45. Rd7+ Kc2 46. Rc7 Rb1+ 47. Kg2 Rd1 48. Be7 b3 49. Bb4 Rd3 50. Ba3 b2?!
Here 50. ... Rd4 should have been preferred; in the worst case I will just win his bishop for the pawn later.

51. Bxb2 Kxb2 52. Re7 Rd4 53. Re6 Bd2 54. h4
Missing 54. Kf1! with the idea of Kf1-e2 to block my king from assisting in the assault.

Had Miller found this, it's not clear I would have had anything but practical chances to win. The engine shows a draw, but humans can't defend like Stockfish!

54. ... Kc2 55. g4 Kd3 56. Re5 Rd8 57. Kh3 Rf8 58. Rd5+ Ke2 59. Re5 Rf3+, White resigned.

The 2021 edition was the biggest and best Banff Open yet, with three IMs, six FMs, and for the first time, a grandmaster. A FIDE grant for €1,000 helped bump up the prize fund to $6,400, including special women's and veteran's prizes. Special thanks to the anonymous donor kicked in the $500 Armageddon bonus as well as sponsorship for two titled players.

I was able to stay for a week (partly due to WestJet's flight schedule), and I recommend extra time for sightseeing Lake Louise, the Columbian Icefields, and so on. It's a great tradition, so if you like tournaments in vacation settings, plan on coming out to Banff in 2022.

2021 BANFF OPEN AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2021 | BANFF, CANADA

OPEN: 1ST: IM Mark Plotkin, 5½/6. **2ND:** GM Joel Benjamin, 5. **3RD-8TH:** IM David Cummings, FMs Ian Findlay, Dale Haessel, Gary Ng, and Victor Plotkin; and Keith Mackinnon, 4½.

U1800: 1ST: Justin Kim, 5½/6. **2ND-4TH:** Bruce Coates, Andrew Funk, Pierre Maheux, 5. **5TH-6TH:** Rodelio Gallard Ancheta, Marko Stefanov, 4½.

For more information, visit *albertachess.org.*

PHOTO: COURTESY BHAVIK DAVE

International Relations

Team USA heads to Belgium for the multinational NATO Chess Championships.

BY **MAJOR GORDON RANDALL**

(Most of) Team USA, left to right: Balmaceda, Dowd, Middaugh, Farrell, Loving, Randall, Wang, Andrew Hater, Hernandez, and Duren.

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY ALAIN MIJNGHEER

THE 31ST ANNUAL NATO Chess Championships (Blankenberge, Belgium, October 11-15, 2021) was largely a success for Team USA, although some players had to make a tough decision — the tournament was held at the same time as was the U.S. Armed Forces Open. (See our May issue for a report on the USAFO. *~ed.*)

This was not the only challenge our team faced. International travel was not easy, considering that we were in the middle of a pandemic. For most of the delegation, requirements included getting tested before departure and then again upon arrival. There was a genuine worry that we would have to take up to three zero-point byes if the test results came back positive. Fortunately, everyone passed their tests, and we were able to play all our games.

Team USA was composed of six of our top players within the Department of Defense. By strength, it was headed by First Lieutenant Eigen Wang (U.S. Air Force), Captain Jason Loving (U.S. Air Force), Chief Petty Officer (ret) Albert Hernandez (U.S. Navy), Major Gordon Randall (U.S. Air Force), Technical Sergeant Andrew Duren (U.S. Air Force), and Petty Officer First Class Enrico Balmaceda (U.S. Navy). Held over five days, the NATO tournament was seven rounds with a time control of G/90+30. All games were played under FIDE rules.

Our six Team USA members were not the only Americans to participate in Blankenberge. Also in the mix was our Veteran/NATO team consisting of Colonel (ret) David Hater, Staff Sergeant (ret) John Farrell, First Lieutenant Andrew Hater, Colonel (ret) Jon Middaugh, and Major Patrick Dowd.

It was a heartwarming experience seeing many of our comrades from different nations. Even though we were competing against each other over the board, we were strengthening the relationships between our respective nations and service members, reinforcing that we are all in this together. This particular event was special for two additional reasons. First, it had been postponed for a year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Second, we paid homage to a dear friend, Belgium's Ben de Cat, who had recently passed.

My tournament started out pretty rough. My first game was against the top seeded player of the tournament, Robert Stein

of Germany. Belgium Navy Captain Gilles Colmant made the ceremonial first move on my behalf, as per tradition. After he pushed my d-pawn forward two squares, everything went downhill, and soon I found myself resigning.

Five of the six players on Team USA finished with plus scores — a noteworthy accomplishment! Our top two performers, Wang and Loving, both finished at 4½/7. Randall, Duren, and Balmaceda each finished with 4/7.

In the NATO team tournament scoring rules, it is the top four scores from each team that are added up to determine the final places. Poland ended up winning the event, followed by Germany, Greece, Denmark, and the United States in fifth place. Sixteen teams competed in all.

While we didn't medal, we certainly had a respectable showing. There are never easy rounds at this event. Each country brings their top chess players who serve in their militaries, and the competition is fierce.

The 2022 NATO Chess Championship will be held at the Estonia Defense Academy, Tartu, Estonia, from June 27 through July 1, 2022. Good luck to Team USA and look for coverage in a future *Chess Life* article!

If you are interested in applying to be on the U.S. Armed Forces chess team to participate in future NATO Championships, please contact John Farrell at *JohnnyUSMC@aol.com*.

SELECTED GAMES FROM THE 2021 NATO CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

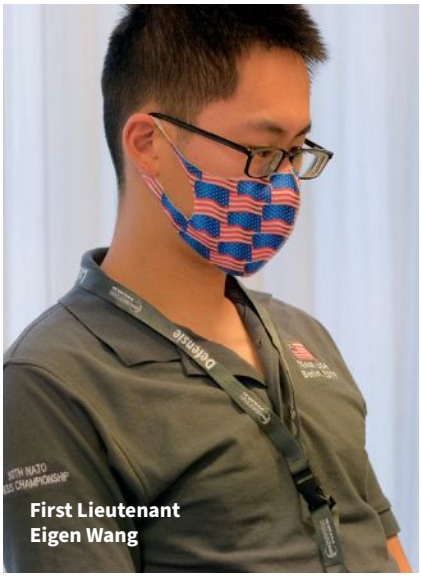
BY **JOHN HARTMANN**

First Lieutenant Eigen Wang was the subject of our February "My Best Move" column. Here are two of his games from Blankenberge that highlight his attacking verve.

BOGO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E11)

Eigen Wang (2216)
WIM Ekaterini Pavlidou (2161)
31st NATO Chess Team (5), Blankenberge, 10.14.2021

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+ 4. Nbd2 c5 5. a3 Bxd2+ 6. Qxd2 b6 7. dxc5 bxc5 8. Qg5 0–0 9. Qxc5 d6 10. Qg5 Qc7 11. e3 e5 12. Be2 Be6 13. Qh4 Nbd7 14. 0–0 a5 15. Bd2 a4 16. Bb4 h6 17. Nd2 Bf5 18. f4 e4 19. g4 Bg6 20. Kh1 Qb6 21. Qg3 Nc5 22. Bc3 Nfd7 23. f5



First Lieutenant Eigen Wang

Wang's brute force approach is paying off. Soon the attack becomes irresistible.

23. ... Bh7 24. g5 hxg5 25. Qxg5 f6 26. Qh5 Rf7 27. Rf4 Re8 28. Rh4 Nf8 29. Rg1 Ree7 30. Qh6 Nd3 31. Bxd3 exd3

32. Bxf6! Qxe3
Here 32. ... Rxf6 is met with 33. Qxf6 due to the pin on the g-file.

33. Bxg7! Qxg1+
If 33. ... Qxh6 34. Bxh6+ Kh8 35. Bg5!.

34. Kxg1 Rxg7+ 35. Kf1
White's material advantage, coupled with Black's chronically weak king, ensures the win, but it's not easy. Wang grinds out the full point.

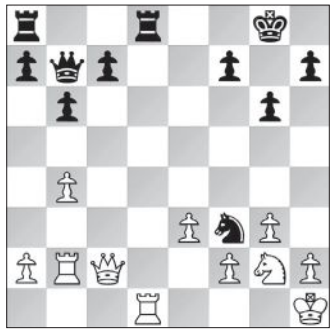
35. ... Ref7 36. Rh5 Rg6 37. Qe3 Rgf6 38. Rg5+ Rg6 39. Ke1 Rxg5 40. Qxg5+ Kh8 41. f6 Nd7 42. Qh5 Rxf6 43. Qe8+ Nf8 44. Qxa4 Re6+ 45. Kd1 Bg6 46. Nf1 Re2 47. Ng3 Rxb2 48. Qa8 Rf2 49. Qa7 Rf4 50. Qe3 Rxc4 51. Qe7 Kg8 52. Qxd6 Rc2 53. Qd5+ Kg7 54. h4 Rh2 55. h5 Bf7 56. Nf5+ Kf6 57. Qd6+, Black resigned.

ENGLISH OPENING (A15)

Mateusz Sypien (2243)
Eigen Wang (2216)
31st NATO Chess Team (6), Blankenberge, 10.14.2021

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 b6 3. g3 Bb7 4. Bg2 g6 5. 0–0 Bg7 6. Nc3 0–0 7. d4 Ne4 8. Nxe4 Bxe4 9. Ne1 Bxg2 10. Nxg2 d5 11. cxd5 Qxd5 12. e3 e5 13. dxe5 Qxe5 14. Qa4 Rd8 15. Rb1 Nd7 16. b4 Qe4!
The light squares around the king are weak, and Wang goes for the attack.

17. Bb2 Bxb2 18. Rxb2 Ne5! 19. Qc2 Nf3+ 20. Kh1 Qb7 21. Rd1



21. ... Rxd1+!?
Sufficient to win, but the follow-up is tricky.

Here Wang missed the stunning 21. ... Rd7!! with the idea that if 22. Rxd7 Ne1 wins immediately. And if White does not exchange rooks, Black doubles on the d-file.

22. Qxd1 Re8?
The only move to keep the attack going was 22. ... g5!!, denying the g2-knight any

Front to back, left: Farrell, Wang, Balmaceda, Hernandez, Dowd. Right: David Hater, Andrew Hater, Loving, Randall, Middaugh, Duren.

safe haven. White has no good moves and Black keeps improving his pieces until he crashes through.

23. Rc2 Re5 24. Rc4 Qa6
Now 24. ... Rh5 is met with 25. h4 and there's no breakthrough.

25. Rc1 Qb7 26. Qd8+, draw.

Wang finished with 4½ points, as did Captain Jason Loving. Here's one of Loving's wins, with his own annotations.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, CLOSED VARIATION (B24)

Mateusz Sypien (2243)
Jason Loving (2021)
31st NATO Chess Team (2), Blankenberge, 10.12.2021
Annotations by Jason Loving

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7
Black wants to control the d4–square.

5. d3 e6
A double-edged move, hoping for quick equality. This prepares ... Ng8-e7 and ... d7-d5, but it leaves the dark squares a bit weak.

6. Be3 Nd4?!
The computer prefers 6. ... d6. White can meet 6. ... Nd4 with 7. Nce2 and then c2-c3 and d3-d4.

7. Qd2 Ne7 8. Nd1?!
Slow, compared to the plan outlined above.

8. ... b6
It's important to defend the c5-pawn once the knight is removed.

9. c3 Ndc6 10. f4?
Taking his foot off the gas.

Instead 10. Bh6 0–0 11. Nf3 d5 is what I had expected during the game, when White is doing his best to make use of the main imbalance — the weakness of Black's dark squares. After the text, the position is equal.

10. ... d5 11. e5 d4 12. Bf2 Bb7 13. c4?
Draining more tension from the game and making it very hard for the knight to re-enter the field of battle.

13. ... Qc7
The computer argues for immediate pawn breaks with ... h7-h6 and ... g6-g5, but I would prefer to continue to develop before taking action.

14. Nf3 h5
Again, the computer believes that I should break open the position with something like 14. ... g5 before White can untie his pieces.

15. 0–0 Nf5 16. h3 Bh6 17. Qe2
The immediate 17. g4 is met by 17. ... hxg4 18. hxg4 f6 with play similar to the game.

17. ... 0–0–0 18. a3?

Trying to launch a queenside attack, but this misses my immediate threat.

18. ... h4!
Finally breaking through.

19. g4 Bxf4
The point. Black sacrifices a piece for two pawns. The white king will be exposed, and the white pieces have a tough time getting involved. I was confident this would be sufficient compensation.

20. gxf5 gxf5 21. Bxh4 Rdg8 22. Bf6 Rxh3 23. Rf2
White finds the best moves, but it is still a very difficult position to hold.

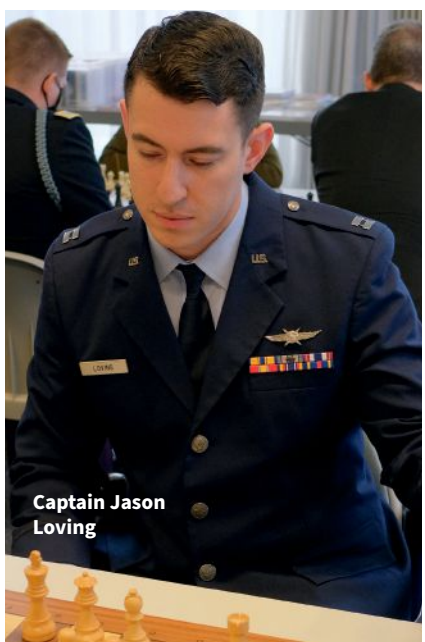
23. ... Rhg3 24. Kf1
Better (but still nearly hopeless) was either 24. Ra2 or 24. b3 with the idea of bringing the rook into the game.

24. ... Be3
Reclaiming material.

25. Nxe3 dxe3 26. Bh4
No better is 26. Qxe3 Nd4.

26. ... exf2 27. Bxg3 Rxg3 28. Qxf2 Rg4
With an extra pawn, more active pieces, and an exposed white king, I was able to bring the game to a quick finish.

29. Re1 Qd8 30. Rd1 Nd4 31. Ne1 Bxg2+ 32. Nxg2 Qh8 33. b4 Qh3 34. bxc5 bxc5 35. Kg1 f4, White resigned. ◆



Captain Jason Loving

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Girls' Weekend: The Chess Edition

Fun and friendship prevail at **Amateur Team South.**

BY **MARIETTE DE MEILLON**
WITH **KAREN BOYD, JILL RENNIE, AND ANNA BAUMSTARK**

IT WAS THE EVENING BEFORE an early flight to West Palm Beach and it was time to pack.

I have long found that packing for a girls' weekend can be an intimidating task, one that requires treading a fine line between comfort and chic, practical and pretty. But this was a girls' trip of a different kind: I was heading to Florida to play chess with three female friends. Easy, then: jeans, t-shirts, a sweater, comfortable shoes. The hair straightener, I decided, could stay home.

When Jill first asked if I was interested in traveling to Florida to participate in the U.S. Amateur Team Championship South, I needed to think about it. I love chess, but using hard-earned vacation days to travel to a chess tournament is a tough decision to make.

In my day job as a data scientist, I sit, think, and solve problems for a living. The prospect of using my vacation days to... well... sit, think, and solve even more problems was a difficult one to wrap my head around. What convinced me was Jill's exclamation that she hadn't had a girls' trip in forever and that we would have fun! That part — the easy companionship of people sharing a hobby — sealed the deal.

The Menopawns, left to right: Anna Baumstark, Karen Boyd, Jill Rennie, and Mariette de Meillon.

PHOTO: COURTESY MARIETTE DE MEILLON

First on the agenda: choosing a team name. I texted my colleague Dave, who is a famous namer-of-things in our friends' circle, and he gave us a few ideas: Peachy Pawns, Good Knight Ladies, and Menopawns. The last name caught on. The four of us are all near or over 50, living with the unwanted changes age is forcing on us. If you can't laugh about the indignities of aging, what can you do? And who doesn't love a good pun?

We watched with some trepidation as more and more teams entered; most were much higher rated. Among the four of us, I was the highest rated at 1572, and our team average ended up at 1364. We felt it was clear that our path to the championship would be difficult. The only question: could we have fun while hanging the occasional (or more than occasional) piece?

Arriving Friday afternoon, I headed to the ballroom to see where we would be playing. Staff was still setting up the room as I entered. "Whose parent are you?" asked the tournament director. To his credit, he looked a little embarrassed when I told him I was actually a player.

Although I didn't resent his comment -- life is too short for that -- it did make me sad, as it reminded me why there are so few female adult players. Our team, like so many female chess players, exhibits a

The top senior team (The Villages People; left) takes on the top women's team (Menopawns; right) in the third round.

set of attributes that many believe can't co-exist. We are moms: nurturing, friendly, and (mostly) competent adults. We are chess players: analytical, rational, and yes, occasionally even dorky. I wish these were not quite so commonly seen as a contradiction in terms.

Our first round was supposed to be on Friday night, but we ended up with a bye for round one. We then declined the offer to switch to the two-day schedule. Neither the shorter time control, nor the prospect of playing three games in one day, held any appeal — we are all 45+ and that kind of mental stamina is a challenge even for professional players. Instead, we banked the point and went out to dinner.

The next afternoon we were paired against a team of kids and lost 3–1. Although we had all played over the board post-COVID — Jill and I had participated in the 2021 Georgia State Championships and the 2021 Georgia Women's State Championships recently — we still suffered some pre-game jitters, as there is nothing quite like the nervous anticipation of facing an opponent in the flesh. Getting our first round out of the way settled our nerves, and when we showed up for round three, we were ready to do battle.

In a curious turn of events, the only all-women's team in the tournament was paired against the only all-senior team, "The Villages People" — a very pleasant group of gentlemen indeed. But we showed no mercy, beating them handily by a score of 3½–½. On Sunday we lost the final two rounds by scores of 4–0 and 3–1. Anna did us proud on board four, finishing with a brilliant four points out of five! The rest of us felt mostly good about our games: we played higher rated opponents and, despite losing, we felt we played solid games. Losing stings less when you do.

Karen is married to GM Ben Finegold, and the tournament director asked her if our team would be willing to stream our games, which Ben would then present live over Twitch. Talk about pressure! I was playing the white side of a Sicilian and considering playing f2-f3 to protect my e4-pawn, but I simply couldn't get Ben's "never play f3" voice out of my head. (I chose Nb1-d2 instead!)

Did we have fun? Yes! A lot! What really stood out for me was the easy companionship among the four of us. We hadn't really socialized together before, but this trip felt so comfortable. We have much in common: we're similarly-aged working moms with a passion for this amazing, complicated, infuriating, and beautiful game called chess. Looking back now, I couldn't help but wonder if this sense of shared passion and belonging was rare or if such camaraderie is endemic to all team tournaments. Maybe we just got lucky and found a team that meshed —sharing disappointment after losses and joy after wins made all the difference.

We won the U1400 prize, best female team (ha!) and yes, best team name. I returned to work energized and relaxed with a renewed motivation to study chess, and decided that this was a good use of vacation days after all. I hope the Menopawns can make this trip an annual tradition.

PHOTO: COURTESY MARIETTE DE MEILLON

2021 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM SOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 4-6, 2022 | WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

TEAM:

1ST: Action Chess (Raghav Venkat, Yan Miellier, Ryan E. Hamley, Ezra Etzel), 4½/5. **2ND:** Chesshub (Carlos Andretta, Nicolas de la Colina, Marvin Gao, Dereck Laureano), 4. **3RD:** D's Patzers R Making Me Thirsty (Jesse D. Davidson, Otis Wilson John J. Ligotti, Nowell Sheinwald, Shalam Yisrael), 4. **U2000:** 4 Knights (Dylan Todfield, Neryk Davydov, David Cohen, Akeras Overlingas), 3. **U1800:** Ukrainian Defense (Andrew Hoy, John Hardin, Luke Romacker, Kai Yoshinaga), 3. **U1600:** Flying Under the Radar (Rohan Kumar, Quintin Tanksley, Vladimir Bershanskiy, David Disbrow), 2½. **U1400 / TOP FEMALE / BEST NAME:** Menopawns (Mariette de Meillon, Jill Rennie, Karen Boyd, Anna Baumstak), 2. **U1200:** Checkmate Me Daddy! (Issac Pines, Stephen Cheng, Lawrence Pines, Chuyang Zhang), 2. **U1000:** Chess Ninjas (Sabrina Chile Paz, Cairo Glenn, Viraj Epuri, Maximilia Bergler), 2. **TOP COLLEGE:** FIU Panthers (Davel Prieto, Baxter D. Johnson, Masance Paksima, Jordan Rainey), 1. **TOP SENIOR:** The Villages People (Michael Kind, Leo Bonnell, Barry Jaffee, Mike Moschos, Monroe Steindorf), 2.

INDIVIDUAL:

BOARD 1: GM Julio Becerra, 5. **BOARD 2:** Nicolas de la Colina, 4½. **BOARD 3:** Theo Slade, 4½. **BOARD 4:** Ezra Etzel and Oscar Williams, 4½. **RESERVE:** Robert Lachaussee, 2½.

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LESSONS FROM WIJK

Games and analysis from Tata Steel, won in convincing style by **GM Magnus Carlsen**.

BY **GM ELSHAN MORADIABADI**

INTRODUCTION BY **JOHN HARTMANN**

IN HIS FIRST CLASSICAL EVENT AFTER DEFEATING GM Ian Nepomniachtchi at the 2021 World Championship, GM Magnus Carlsen took the first steps towards his goal of breaking the 2900 rating barrier with a decisive victory at the 2022 Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.

Carlsen won the Masters with a round to spare after defeating GM Fabiano Caruana in the penultimate round. He then collected a final-round forfeit victory over his Dubai second, GM Daniil Dubov, who was forced to withdraw from the event due to a positive COVID-19 test. Dubov forfeited four games in all.

Carlsen's score of 9½/13 gave him a point and a half cushion over GMs Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Richard Rapport, who both finished with eight points. The American entries will look back on their time in Wijk aan Zee with no great affection. GM Fabiano Caruana finished in the middle of the pack with 6½/13. While GM Sam Shankland ended with a minus one score at 5½/13, he did at least earn the satisfaction of trouncing GM Sergey Karjakin (who knocked him out of the 2021 FIDE Grand Prix) in round 12.

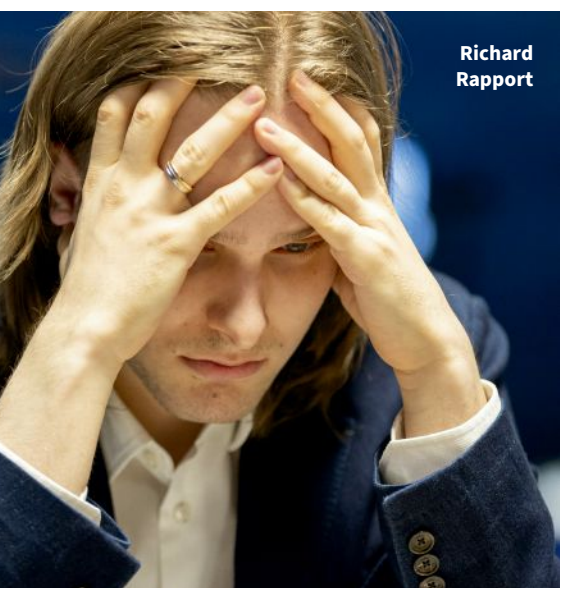
The Tata Steel Challengers returned after a year's hiatus due to COVID restrictions. This year's winner was the young Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi, who did Carlsen one (point) better with a stellar 10½/13 score, leaving him two points ahead of GMs Jonas Buhl Bjerre and Thai Dai Van Nguyen. Erigaisi will receive an invitation to the 2023 Masters on the basis of this victory.

This year's Masters tournament saw a number of fascinating and instructive encounters, so we've asked GM Elshan Moradiabadi to annotate some of the most interesting games and positions. Buckle up, chess lovers — you're in for a feast.

PHOTO: LENNART OOTES

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov

Jan-Krzysztof Duda


Richard Rapport

QUEEN'S GAMBIT, CATALAN VARIATION (E04)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2865)
GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (2767)
Tata Steel Masters (9), Wijk aan Zee, 01.25.2022

In a battle between the two leaders heading into round nine, Carlsen prevailed in this gem of a game. The world champion's performance was so impressive that Mamedyarov considered this the game he enjoyed most in Wijk!

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. c4 e6 4. g3
The Catalan was Carlsen's main weapon for this tournament. As he must have worked on it extensively for the match against Nepomniachtchi, it was not unexpected that he uses the "leftovers" here.

4. ... dxc4 5. Bg2 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 a5 7. 0–0 0–0 8. e3!?
Reinforcing the d4-pawn and preparing Nf3-e5.

8. ... Ra6
A rare choice indeed.

More common is 8. ... Nc6 9. Qe2 Qe7 (*9. ... e5?! 10. Nxe5!? Nxe5 11. dxe5 Ng4 12. f4 Bf5* and now I suggest the novelty *13. Bxb4!?*) 10. Qxc4 e5 11. d5 Nb8 12. e4 Bd6 resulting in an original position.

9. Qc2 b5 10. a4 c6 11. Nc3 Rb6 12. e4 Be7?!
This feels like a waste of time.

Instead I'd prefer 12. ... h6 13. Rfd1 Nbd7 14. Bf4 Re8 and now the bishop can drop back comfortably to f8, while the d7-knight could be maneuvered to g6 via the same square.

13. e5! Nd5 14. axb5 cxb5

15. Nxd5!
That Carlsen saw the limitations of Mamedyarov's very tempting Exchange sacrifice is only possible with deep understanding of the position. This is not the kind of situation where you can calculate your way to a clear outcome!

15. ... exd5 16. Bxa5 Nc6 17. Bxb6 Qxb6 18. Ra8!
Making sure that Black cannot use the power of his rook to support his dangerous queenside majority.

18. ... h6?
Probably a decisive error.

After the correct 18. ... Be6 19. Rxf8+ Bxf8 20. Qd2 h6 21. Ra1 b4 White has the upper hand, but it is not clear how he can make progress. I suspect part of that progress will involve pushing the kingside pawns.

19. Rfa1 Be6 20. Qd1!
Everything falls into place — and just in time!

20. ... b4 21. b3 c3 22. R8a6 Qc7 23. Ne1!
The knight heads to the c2-square, and Black has zero counterplay.

23. ... f6 24. Nd3!
It turns out that Carlsen can calculate too! This change of plans will send the knight to the f4-square, prompted by the many weaknesses in Black's camp.

24. ... fxe5
If Black tries 24. ... Nxd4 then 25. Rxe6 Nxe6 26. Bxd5, while after 24. ... g5 25. exf6 Bxf6 26. Nc5 Bf7 27. Rxc6! Qxc6 28. Ra6 is a delicious skewer.

25. Nxe5 Nxe5 26. Rxe6 c2 27. Qe1, Black resigned.
Play might continue 27. Qe1 Nd3 28. Rxe7 c1=Q (or if *28. ... Qc3 29. Bxd5+ Kh8 30. Re8!* for the sake of brevity! Black is down a rook!) 29. Rxc1 Qxc1 30. Qxc1 Nxc1 31. Bxd5+.

LONDON SYSTEM (D02)

GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda (2760)
GM Richard Rapport (2763)
Tata Steel Masters (1), Wijk aan Zee, 01.15.2022

While Duda won this game, he must have been disappointed with his performance, especially after his stellar showing at the World Rapid and Blitz. Rapport, on the other hand, had one of his best showings in recent years.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bf4

PHOTOS: JURRIAN HOEFSMIT (MAMEDYAROV, RAPPORT); LENNART OOTES (DUDA)

The London System has evolved from being a "solid way to make a draw" into a venomous system these days.

3. … Bf5 4. c4 e6 5. e3 Nbd7
Certainly not the only move. Other options include 5. … Bd6 (my favorite move) and 5. … Bxb1 6. Qxb1 (*6. Rxb1 Bb4+ 7. Ke2* is also possible) 6. … Bb4+ as tested in Carlsen - So (Wijk aan Zee, 2018). It's playable for Black, but it requires accurate preparation.

6. Qb3 Bd6 7. Bg3
Engines initially prefer 7. Bxd6 cxd6 8. Nc3 dxc4 9. Bxc4 Qb6 10. Nd2. But at the highest levels this is almost nothing for White. Duda's plan is quite tricky.

7. … dxc4
Much easier was 7. … 0–0 8. Nc3 Bxg3 9. hxg3 c6 and now if 10. Qxb7? Rb8 11. Qxc6 Rxb2 Black has compensation and an attack!

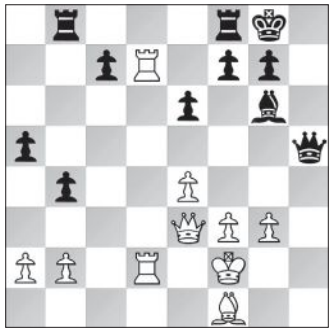
8. Bxc4 Rb8 9. Nc3 b5 10. Be2 0–0 11. Rd1 Qe7 12. Ne5!
The engines don't care for this move, but they're wrong! With this we see Duda's deep strategic concept, one that lured Rapport into a difficult position.

12. … b4 13. Na4 Bxe5 14. dxe5 Ne4 15. f3 Nxg3 16. hxg3 Nc5
After 16. … Nxe5 17. e4 Bg6 18. Qe3 White has just about sufficient compensation with the weak c5–square and the sequestered bishop on g6.

17. Nxc5 Qxc5 18. Kf2 Qxe5 19. Rd7!
Now White occupies the d-file and plays to shut out the black bishop.

19. … a5 20. Rhd1 h5 21. e4 Bg6 22. R1d2 h4!
Rapport correctly seeks activity.

23. gxh4 Qh2 24. Bf1 Qxh4+ 25. g3 Qh5 26. Qe3



The set designers in Wijk aan Zee earn their money — the aesthetics of the playing hall are absolutely superb!

26. … c5?
I think this is where Rapport really spun out. He misses an opportunity to equalize where he could solve his two problems at once — the passive rook and the passive bishop.

With 26. … f5! 27. exf5 (and not *27. Bc4?? Qh2+*) 27. … Rxf5! 28. Qxe6+ Kh7 29. Bg2 Rbf8 30. f4 Qh2 31. Qe3 Re8 Black is safe.

27. Kg2 a4
Now 27. … f5? is bad in light of 28. Bc4.

28. Bc4 a3 29. b3 Qe5 30. Qf4!
White plays for domination.

30. … Qxf4 31. gxf4
Engine evaluations (+1.5 or so) don't tell the full story here — in over-the-board play, Black is dead in the water!

31. … Bh5 32. Kg3 g6?
Rapport tries to build a fortress but this move loses by force. 32. … Rbc8 33. R2d6 Rce8 34. Kf2 Kh7 35. Ke3 Kg8 36. Rc7 also looks bad.

PHOTO: JURRIAN HOEFSMIT

33. R2d3!
Prophylactics for the final march!

33. ... Rbe8 34. Kh4 Kg7 35. Kg5 Rh8 36. Rc7 Rc8 37. Re7 Rce8 38. Red7 Rhf8 39. Rc7 Rh8 40. Rdd7 Rhf8 41. f5, Black resigned.
A neat performance by Duda. He was doing well, until he lost to Mamedyarov in the fourth round.

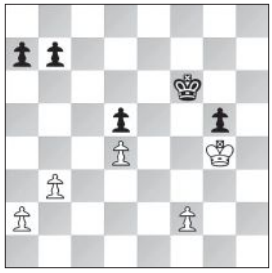
TECHNIQUE!

GM Santosh Gujrathi Vidit (2727)
GM Sam Shankland (2708)
Tata Steel Masters (1), Wijk aan Zee, 01.15.2022

WHITE TO MOVE

We all want to be good at the technical side of chess, but it takes a lifetime to master its nuances. This is all the more the case because "technique" is usually required around the first time controls!

39. a4?
Vidit passed up the winning 39. Rf7! when I suspect he was afraid of 39. ... Nd7 (after *39. ... Rb8 40. f4 a5 41. a4 b6 42. Ke3* Black has no move). But after 40. Rxd7 Rxd7 41. Nxd7 Kxd7 42. Ke3 g5 43. Kf3 Ke6 44. Kg4 Kf6



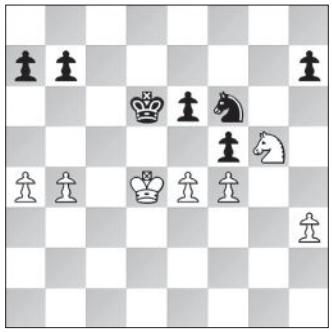
POSITION AFTER 44. ... Kf6

45. b4! Black is in *zugzwang* — count the tempi! White wins after 45. ... a6 46. a4 b6 47. f4 gxf4 48. Kxf4 a5 49. b5.

39. ... a5 40. Kd3 Rb8 41. Rf7 g5 42. Rg7 Kf5 43. Ke3 b6 44. Kf3 g4+ 45. Nxg4 Ne6 46. Ne3+ Kf6 47. Rg4 b5 48. Nxd5+ Kf7 49. Ke4 bxa4 50. bxa4 Rb2 51. f3 Rb3 52. f4 Ra3 53. Nb6 Rb3 54. Nd5 Ra3 55. Ke5 Rxa4 56. f5 Nf8 57. Kd6 Nh7 58. f6 Kf8 59. Ke5 Ra1 60. Nf4 Re1+ 61. Kf5 Ke8 62. Rg8+ Nf8 63. d5 Rf1 64. d6 Rd1 65. Ng6 Rf1+ 66. Ke5 Re1+ 67. Kd5 Rd1+ 68. Kc6 Rc1+ 69. Kb5 Kd7 70. Rxf8 Kxd6 71. f7 Rc5+ 72. Ka4 Ke6 73. Nh8, Black resigned.

TAKING ONE'S CHANCES

GM Richard Rapport (2763)
GM Jorden van Foreest (2702)
Tata Steel Masters (2), Wijk aan Zee, 01.16.2022



BLACK TO MOVE

After a tough opening round, Rapport made the most of what Caïssa offered him in his second game. Here, in this benign, equal ending, van Foreest went astray and gave away a pawn.

35. ... Nd7
However, he could have held with 35. ... fxe4 36. Nxe4+ Ke7! (and not *36. ... Nxe4?? 37. Kxe4 Ke7 38. Ke5 h5 39. f5!*).

36. Nxh7 e5+ 37. fxe5+ Nxe5 38. exf5 Nc6+ 39. Kc4 Ke5 40. f6 Ke6 41. b5 Ne5+ 42. Kd4 a6 43. Ng5+ Kxf6 44. Ne4+ Kf5 45. Nd6+ Kf4 46. b6 a5 47. Kc5, Black resigned.

LIQUIDATION

GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa (2612)
GM Fabiano Caruana (2792)
Tata Steel Masters (11), Wijk aan Zee, 01.28.2022

BLACK TO MOVE

The ability to liquidate into a winning position is one of the hardest things to learn in chess. The skills required to obtain winning

Grizzled veteran (at age 29!) GM Fabiano Caruana gets the better of 16-year-old GM Rameshbabu "Pragg" Praggnanandhaa.

PHOTO: JURRIAN HOEFSMIT

Striking a prescient blow for freedom-loving chess fans everywhere, GM Sam Shankland notched a key win over GM Sergey Karjakin.

positions without material superiority requires several examples and careful study. Here Caruana puts on a master class.

30. ... Bxc3!
Back-rank threat number one!

31. Bxc3 Be4!
Back-rank threat number two!

32. Qc1 Bxb1 33. Qxb1 a4
The a-pawn is a powerful decoy.

34. h3 a3 35. Kh2 Qa8 36. Qb3 a2 37. Ba1 Qa5 38. Kg3 g5!
Now it is time for the principle of two weaknesses. White is tied down, so Black opens up a second front.

39. h4 gxh4+ 40. Kxh4 Ng6+ 41. Kg3 h5 42. Qb2 Qd8 43. f4 Qh4+ 44. Kf3 Qe1 45. Qxa2 Nh4+ 46. Ke4 Qf1, White resigned.

ACTIVITY

GM Jorden van Foreest (2702)
GM Sam Shankland (2708)
Tata Steel Masters (13), Wijk aan Zee, 01.30.2022

WHITE TO MOVE

51. Rg7
Here, in the final round of a very long tournament, Sam Shankland is faced with the loss of a second pawn in a tricky endgame. His b-pawn and active pieces may (should?) suffice to hold, but deducing the path to safety after more than two weeks of intense struggle is not easy.

51. ... b5 52. Rxg5 b4 53. Rg8 Ra5??
Shankland goes for the obvious move, but I wonder whether he thought that the position was already lost at this point. Sometimes the ability to find "only-moves" a few moves into analysis depends upon believing in your chances to hold!

Sam had to find 53. ... b3! 54. Rb8 Kc5 55. g5 and now 55. ... Bf5!!.

POSITION AFTER 55. ... Bf5

This is very difficult to see in advance. After all, Black was banking on the speedy b-pawn marching down the board, but all of a sudden, he has to shift his attention to stop White's pieces from progressing. Black's piece activity is just enough to achieve this goal.

Here are the key variations:

(a) 56. Kg3 b2 57. Rxb2 Be4 leads nowhere.

(b) 56. d6 Kxd6 57. g6 Ra7! 58. Rxb3 (*58. Kg3 Ke5*) 58. ... Ke5. All these "only-moves" are easy enough to find after the fog of battle has lifted, but mindset is key: it's not simple at all to find them when you aren't sure that a draw exists! After 59. Rb6 Rg7 60. Bh5 Kf4 61. f3 Kg5 Black removes the g6-pawn.

(c) 56. Bd1 Be4+ (maybe there's a draw after *56. ... Bc2 57. Rc8+ Kxd5 58. Bxc2 bxc2 59. Rxc2 Ke5* but the main line is clearer) 57. f3 Bxd5 58. Kg3 Kd4 59. Kf4 Kc3 60. Rc8+ Kd2 61. Rd8 (*61. Bxb3 Rxb3*) 61. ... Kxd1 62. Rxd5+ Kc2 63. g6 b2 64. Rc5+ Kd3 65. Rb5 Ra4+!! 66. Kg3 (*66. Kg5 Ra5*) 66. ... Kc3 67. g7 Ra8 68. f4 Rg8 and Black's rook saves the day!

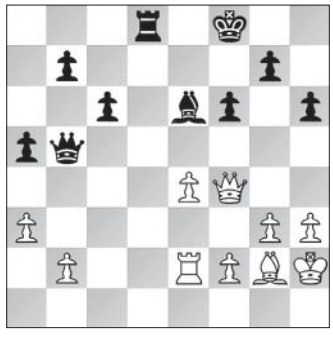
54. g5 b3
There's no salvation with 54. ... Ke5 55. g6 Kf6 56. Be4 b3 57. Rf8+.

55. g6 b2 56. Rb8 Rb5 57. Rxb5 Bxb5 58. g7 b1=Q 59. g8=Q Qf1+ 60. Kg3
White manages to parry all the checks and the extra two pawns ensures his victory.

60. ... Qd3 61. Qe6+ Kc7 62. Qe5+ Kd7 63. Qe3 Qb1 64. Qe6+ Kd8 65. d6 Qh7 66. Qf6+ Kd7 67. Bg4+ Ke8 68. Qe5+ Kd8 69. Qg5+, Black resigned.

PUSHING ONE'S LUCK

GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda (2760)
GM Jorden van Foreest (2702)
Tata Steel Masters (12), Wijk aan Zee, 01.29.2022



WHITE TO MOVE

After the loss to Mamedyarov and then a loss to Caruana with the white pieces, Duda finished at minus one. It could have been worse.

Here, facing off with last year's winner, the Polish number one should have conced-

PHOTO: JURRIAN HOEFSMIT

GM Magnus Carlsen

ed a draw with 32. Rd2. Instead he chose an adventurous line over safety.

32. Qc7??
Why is this move a blunder? After...

32. ... Rd7 33. Qb8+ Kf7?
... last year's winner threw away a win.

Had van Foreest found 33. ... Ke7! 34. Rc2 Qd3 35. Rc3 Qd2 there would have been no easy way to save the f2-pawn. Perhaps he rejected this line due to 36. Rf3 Qxb2 when, from a distance, it might appear that White has enough compensation for the pawn in the slightly exposed black king. But after ... Qb2-e5 and ... Ke7-f7 Black consolidates and can begin marching his queenside pawns down the board.

34. Bf3 Qd3 35. Qf4 g5 36. Bh5+ Kg7 37. Qb8!
The queen saves the day!

37. ... g4
If instead 37. ... Bf7 Duda might have found the surprising 38. Bg4! (on *38. Bxf7? Rxf7 39. Re3 Qf1 40. Rf3 Qe2* and the problem with the f2–pawn costs White a pawn again!) 38. ... h5 39. Bxd7!! Qxe2 40. Qxb7 (greedy but necessary!) 40. ... Qxf2+ 41. Kh1 Qe1+ 42. Kh2 Qxe4 43. Bxc6 Qe2+ 44. Bg2 and Black only has a bit of pressure, nothing more.

38. Re1 Qd2 39. Rf1 Bc4 40. Qe8!
Securing the perpetual.

40. ... Bxf1 41. Qg6+ Kh8 42. Qe8+ Kg7 43. Qg6+ Kh8 44. Qe8+, draw.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E20)

GM Sam Shankland (2708)
GM Sergey Karjakin (2743)
Tata Steel Masters (12), Wijk aan Zee, 01.29.2022

Shankland's only win in this event was an instructive one.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3 c5 5. d5 b5 6. e4 d6 7. Bd2 a6 8. a4 bxc4 9. Bxc4 Nbd7!
A sound pawn sacrifice. The ensuing play is very logical, even if it appears a bit chaotic. Much turns on Black's ability (or inability) to play ... Nd7-e5-d3.

10. dxe6 fxe6 11. Bxe6 Ne5 12. Bxc8
Eliminating the double threats on d3 and e6.

84th Tata Steel Masters

WIJK AAN ZEE, JANUARY 14-30, 2022

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	GM Magnus Carlsen	2865	*	1	1	1	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	X	9½
2	GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2767	0	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	8
3	GM Richard Rapport	2763	0	½	*	½	½	1	½	1	0	½	½	1	1	X	8
4	GM Anish Giri	2772	0	½	½	*	½	0	1	1	½	½	1	½	½	X	7½
5	GM Sergey Karjakin	2743	½	½	½	½	*	1	0	½	½	1	0	1	½	½	7
6	GM Jorden van Foreest	2702	½	0	0	1	0	*	0	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	7
7	GM Andrey Esipenko	2714	½	½	½	0	1	1	*	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	6½
8	GM Fabiano Caruana	2792	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	1	1	½	6½
9	GM Jan-Kryzsztof Duda	2760	½	0	1	½	½	½	½	0	*	½	½	½	½	½	6
10	GM Santosh Gujrathi Vidit	2727	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	*	1	0	1	1	6
11	GM Sam Shankland	2708	½	½	½	0	1	0	½	½	½	0	*	½	½	½	5½
12	GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa	2612	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	0	½	1	½	*	1	X	5½
13	GM Nils Grandelius	2672	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	0	½	0	½	0	*	1	4½
14	GM Daniil Dubov	2720	F	½	F	F	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	F	0	*	3½

PHOTO: JURRIAN HOEFSMIT

12. … Qxc8 13. Bf4
Defending the d3–square.

13. … c4
Black, in turn, frees the c5-square and prepares … Ne5-d3+ once more.

14. Bxe5 dxe5 15. Nh3 Bc5?! 16. Qe2 Rb8 17. Nf2
Another logical move, preparing castling.

17. … Qb7?
Karjakin stumbles.

Better was 17. … Bd4 18. 0–0 Nh5 19. Kh1 Nf4 20. Qd2 0–0 when Black's activity more than makes up for the pawn. Here we see the limits of logic — Karjakin's move, while "logical," fails to address the more pressing concern of his king safety!

18. 0–0?!
Shankland should have gone for the brave (and consistent) 18. Qxc4! but he may have worried about 18. … Bxf2+ (note that the more accurate *18. … Qxb2 19. 0–0 Bxf2+ 20. Kh1* transposes to the game). This looks scary, but fortunately it's not real trouble: 19. Kxf2 Qxb2+ 20. Kg3 Nh5+.

(see diagram top next column)

POSITION AFTER 20. … Nh5

21. Kh4 Nf4 22. Qc6+ Kf7 (*22. … Ke7* loses to *23. Nd5+ Nxd5 24. Qc5+!*, an only move, controlling the f2–square! After *24. … Ke8* [24. … Kf6 25. Qd6+] *25. Rhb1* Black sheds material) 23. Qc7+ Kg6 (*23. … Kf8 24. Ra2 Qb6 25. Qxb6 Rxb6 26. g3 g5+ 27. Kg4 h5+ 28. Kf5* and White starts to pick up pawns) 24. Qxe5 and White wins.

18. … Qxb2?
Karjakin misses his chance.

White would be stuck with some technical difficulties after 18. … Qb4, none of which are easy to address.

19. Qxc4! Bxf2+ 20. Kh1
Now the black king will suffer an unstoppable attack.

GM Arjun Erigaisi

PHOTO: LENNART OOTES

84th Tata Steel Challengers

WIJK AAN ZEE, JANUARY 14-30, 2022

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	**GM Arjun Erigaisi**	2632	*	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	10½
2	**GM Thai Dai Van Nguyen**	2613	½	*	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	8½
3	**GM Jonas Buhl Bjerre**	2586	0	0	*	1	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	8½
4	**GM Rinat Jumabayev**	2631	½	½	0	*	0	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	7½
5	**GM Erwin l'Ami**	2622	½	½	0	1	*	0	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	7½
6	**GM Lucas van Foreest**	2539	½	½	½	0	1	*	½	½	½	1	0	1	½	½	7
7	**IM Volodar Murzin**	2519	0	½	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	7
8	**GM Max Warmerdam**	2607	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	0	½	1	½	1	6½
9	**GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly**	2627	0	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	*	½	1	½	1	1	6
10	**GM Daniel Dardha**	2532	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	1	½	*	0	1	½	1	5½
11	**GM Marc'Andria Maurizzi**	2502	0	0	0	½	½	1	½	½	0	1	*	0	½	0	4½
12	**IM Polina Shuvalova**	2516	½	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	1	*	½	1	4½
13	**IM Roven Vogel**	2452	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	*	0	4
14	**WGM Zhu Jiner**	2478	0	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	*	3½

20. ... Qb3
Karjakin wasn't in the mood for agony after 20. ... Qb4 21. Qxb4 Rxb4 22. Rxf2.

21. Qc7! Qb6
There's no refuge in 21. ... 0–0 22. Rab1 Qf7 23. Qxb8 Rxb8 24. Rxb8+ Ne8 25. Rxf2.

22. Qxe5+ Kf7 23. Nd5
Adding fuel to the fire... and another logical move!

23. ... Nxd5
If instead 23. ... Rhe8 24. Qxe8+ Nxe8 25. Nxb6 Bxb6 26. Rab1 Nd6 27. a5 Bc7 28. Rxb8 Bxb8 29. Rc1 White grabs the a-pawn and wins with ease.

24. Qxd5+ Ke7 25. Qe5+ Kf7 26. Rac1, Black resigned.
Karjakin doesn't wait to see the final denouement: 26. Rac1 Rbc8 (*26. ... Bd4 27. Rc7+*) 27. Rxc8 Rxc8 28. Qf5+.

MISSED CHANCES

GM Santosh Gujrathi Vidit (2727)
GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (2767)
Tata Steel Masters (12), Wijk aan Zee, 01.29.2022

Santosh Gujrathi Vidit

WHITE TO MOVE

Vidit misses a shot in a complex position.

19. Nd3?
19. Ng4!! is difficult to find because after 19. ... Nxc4 20. bxc4 f5 21. Nxh6+ gxh6 22. Nc5! has to be seen ahead of time. Now after 22. ... Nc7 23. Nxb7 Qh4 24. Nd6 Re7

POSITION AFTER 24. ... Re7

25. Rxe6 Rxe6 26. Nxf5 Qf6 27. a5 White is winning. Well... yeah. Of course! It's obvious! </sarcasm>

19. ... Bf7 20. Re2 Bc7 21. Rae1 b6?!
Wasting time. I think ... a7–a6 and ... b7–b5 was more principled.

22. Bc1!
Bringing the last dude to the attack!

22. ... Re6?!
Now Mamedyarov is in trouble again.

23. Bd2 Nxc4 24. bxc4 Ne7 25. Bxh6?!
Too hasty.

White's attack is in full swing after 25. Bf4 f5 26. Bxc7 Qxc7 27. Ne5! Rxe5 28. Nf6+ gxf6 29. dxe5 fxe5 30. Rxe5 Ng6 31. Rxf5.

25. ... Qxd4?
The position remains complex after 25. ... Ng6 26. d5 cxd5 27. cxd5 Rxe4.

26. Qg4??
Vidit makes the last mistake.

He should have tried 26. Bf4 Bxf4 27. Nxf4 Re5 28. Qg4 Kf8 29. Nxf6! and with the f4–knight jumping to e6 or g6, White stays a pawn up with a winning attack, i.e., 29. ... Rxe2 30. Nh7+ Kg8 31. Rxe2.

26. ... f5
Winning a piece, after which Mamedyarov duly converts.

27. Bxg7 Qxg7 28. Qxg7+ Kxg7 29. Ng5 Rxe2 30. Rxe2 Ng6 31. Ne6+ Bxe6 32. Rxe6 Rd8 33. Rxc6 Bb8 34. Ne1 Ne5 35. Re6 Kf7 36. Rh6 Rd1 37. Kf1 Nxc4 38. Rh4 Ne3+, White resigned.

MAGNIFICENCE

GM Fabiano Caruana (2792)
GM Magnus Carlsen (2865)
Tata Steel Masters (12), Wijk aan Zee, 01.29.2022

BLACK TO MOVE

Carlsen demonstrates his technical prowess with this small Exchange sacrifice against Caruana.

26. ... Rxd4! 27. Bxd4 Qxd2 28. Rd1 Qf4
Engines prefer 28. ... Qc2 29. Rbc1 Qf5 but, practically speaking, there's not much difference between Carlsen's move and Stockfish's.

29. Qb4 e6 30. Bc3?
Losing by force.

30. ... Qxb4! 31. Bxb4
My guess is that after 31. Rxb4 Caruana missed 31. ... Bf8 32. Bd4 Rd8 33. Rc4 a3 34. Kf2 a2 35. Ra1 Ra8 36. Rb4 Bd5.

31. ... Bxe5 32. Ba3
Lacking counterplay, White is ground down. Carlsen converts his advantage slowly but surely.

32. ... Bf6 33. Kf2 Be7 34. Rb6 Rc8 35. Rd2 f6 36. f4 e5 37. fxe5 fxe5 38. Re2 Rf8+ 39. Ke1 Rf5 40. Rb1 e4 41. Rc1 Bh4+ 42. g3 Bg5 43. Rb1 Rf3 44. Bc1 Bf6 45. Rb6 Rf5

PHOTO: JURRIAN HOEFSMIT

The eternal battle between Carlsen and Caruana continued in Wijk. Carlsen earned the victory with smooth technique.

46. Ba3 Kf7 47. Rf2 Rf3 48. Rxf3 exf3 49. Kf1 Bd4, White resigned.

PIECE QUALITY

GM Magnus Carlsen (2865)
GM Santosh Gujrathi Vidit (2727)
Tata Steel Masters (11), Wijk aan Zee, 01.28.2022

BLACK TO MOVE

28. ... Re8??
It's hard to explain Vidit's move. Instead, he had two reasonable options.

After 28. ... Nf4+ 29. Ke3 (*29. Kf1? Nxh3+*) 29. ... Nxg2+ 30. Kd4 Rd8+ 31. Kc3 Re8 32. Nd6 Re3+ Black's active pieces and extra pawn should suffice to counter White's pressure on the queenside and his active king.

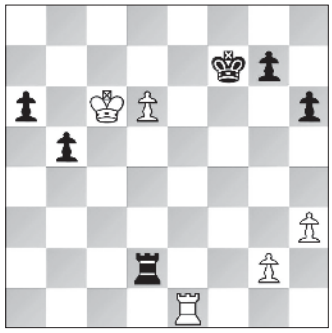
The safest and easiest path to a draw begins with 28. ... Nf6! 29. Nd6 Nd7.

29. cxd5 Rxe4+ 30. Kd3 Rxa4 31. d6!
In rook and pawn endings, quality is more important than quantity. Carlsen doesn't even consider Rb1xb6.

31. ... Kf7 32. Re1!
The king is cut off. Now, White has a form of Lucena, but that it's not exactly Lucena (yet) means that Carlsen has work to do.

32. ... Ra5 33. Kd4 Ra2 34. Kd5!
Quality.

34. ... Rd2+ 35. Kc6 b5



36. d7?
After almost squeezing water from the proverbial stone, Carlsen misses the win at the last step.

Correct was 36. Re7+! Kf6 37. Re4!! winning important tempi that would deprive Black of the counterplay he obtained in the game. For instance: 37. ... Kf7 (*37. ... a5 38. d7 b4 39. Re8 b3 40. d8=Q+ Rxd8 41. Rxd8 a4 42. Rb8 Ke5 43. Rb4*, and after *37. ... Rxg2 38. Rd4!* now we see why the check on e7 was so important — with the king on f6, Black can't bring his king to d8 via e8) 38. d7 Rc2+ 39. Kb7 Rd2 40. Kc7 Rc2+ 41. Kd8 a5 42. Re7+ Kf8 43. Re5 a4 44. Rf5+ Kg8 45. Ke7 Rd2 46. d8=Q+ Rxd8 47. Kxd8 b4 48. Ra5 a3 49. Ra4 and White wins.

Note that after 36. Re4? Rxg2 37. d7 Rc2+ 38. Kb6 Rd2 39. Kc7 Rc2+ 40. Kd8 g5 Black draws with his kingside majority.

36. ... Rc2+ 37. Kb6 Rd2 38. Kc7 Rc2+ 39. Kd8 b4!
Now the black b-pawn is too advanced. The rest of the game is fairly self-explanatory.

40. Re7+ Kf8 41. Re3 Kf7 42. Re7+ Kf8 43. Re5 g6 44. Re6 b3 45. Rf6+ Kg7 46. Ke7 Re2+ 47. Re6 Rxe6+ 48. Kxe6 b2 49. d8=Q b1=Q 50. Qc7+ Kg8 51. Qd8+ Kg7, draw.

For up-to-date chess news and information, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

PHOTO: LENNART OOTES

OUR HERITAGE 2021 US CHESS YEARBOOK

The information in this yearbook is substantially correct and current as of December 31, 2021. For the full yearbook, please see the community section at *uschess.org*. To notify US Chess of corrections or updates, please email *mmatthews@uschess.org*.

US CHESS ANNUAL MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, AND FUND BALANCES

Year	U.S. Open Business Meeting	Membership (1)	Fund Balance (2)
2020	Online: COVID-19	81,334	$2,615,898
2021	Cherry Hill, NJ	54,051	$3,682,308

(1) Membership totals are given as of May 31. Totals exclude Junior Tournament Players and tournament members. (2) Figures enclosed in parentheses are deficits.

US CHESS PRESIDENTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Presidents	Executive Directors
2018-2020 Allen Priest	2013-2017 Jean Hoffman
2020-current Mike Hoffpauir	2017-current Carol Meyer

U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

U.S. CHAMPION

2020 Wesley So

2021 Wesley So

St. Louis, Missouri • October 2021

U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMPION

2020 Irina Krush

2021 Carissa Yip

St. Louis, Missouri • October 2021

U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPION

2020 John Burke

2021 Hans Neimann

St. Louis, Missouri • july 2021

U.S. CADET CHAMPION

2020 Christopher Yoo

2021 Not Held

U.S. GIRLS' JUNIOR CHAMPION

2020 Carissa Yip

2021 Annie Wang

St. Louis, Missouri • July 2021

U.S. SENIOR CHAMPION

2020 Joel Benjamin

2021 Gregory Kaidanov

St. Louis, Missouri • October 2021

OTHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

U.S. OPEN

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Aleksandr Lenderman

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Carla Herdia, Zoey Tang

Las Vegas, Nevada • June 2021

U.S. JUNIOR OPEN

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 **U8:** Lucas Silvestre; **U11:** William Wang; **U15:** Jack Heller; **U21:** Pedro Espinosa, Aidan Carey, Elijah Samuel Platnick

Elmhurst, Illinois • July-August 2021

U.S. SENIOR OPEN

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Dmitry Gurevich

Elmhurst, Illinois • July-August 2021

ARMED FORCES OPEN

(Individual* Team)

2020 Andrew Peraino* Navy

2021 Charles M. Unruh* Navy

Grapevine, Texas • October 2021

NATIONAL OPEN

Edmondson Cup winner*

2020 Dariusz Swiercz*, Timur Gareyev, D Gukesh

2021 Arthur Guo*, Illia Nyzhnyk, Andrew Hong, Emilio Cordova Daza, Lazaro Bruzon Batista

Las Vegas, Nevada • June 2021

U.S. CLASS

2020 **Master:** Hans Niemann, Eugene Yanayt; **Expert:** Guy Cardwell; **A:** Andrew Bledsoe; **B:** Samuel He; **C:** Anantha Kumar, Siddharth Kurup; **D:** Cole Frankenhoff; **E:** Ethan Shaffer, Daks Dudipala Jr.

2021 **Master:** GM Vladimir Belous; **Expert:** Dhruv Pathak, Isaac George; **A:** John Farrell, Nirupam Kushalnagar, Jay Parashar, Patrick Young; **B:** Jackson Serice; **C:** Michael Boyle; **D:** Caleb Yohannes Workeneh; **E:** Thanh Viet Nguyen, Samuel Gu

Houston, Texas • July 2021

U.S. BLIND

2020 Jessica T. Lauser

2021 Jessica T. Lauser

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • October 2021

U.S. BLITZ

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Alexander Fishbein, Ryo Chen

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

U.S. GAME/10

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Not Held

U.S. GAME/15

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Samuel Heran-Boily

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

U.S. GAME/30

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Not Held

U.S. GAME/60

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Not Held

U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONS

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 **East:** Terry Winchester; **North:** Matthew Noble; **South:** Michael Takahashi; **West:** Benjamin Yan

U.S. AMATEUR TEAM - NATIONAL PLAYOFF WINNERS*

2020 **East:** Sig Calls (Atuly Shetty, Eric Most, Brian Luo, Justin Brereton)*; **North:** J'adoobie Brothers (Scott Ramer, John Randolph, Bryan Lilly, Glen Gratz, Scot Henderson); **South:** E4 (Tianqi Wang, Neo Zhu, Alex Chen, Benjamin Yan); **West:** BCS (Best Chess School) (Gabriel Bick, Ladia Jirasek, Rayan Taghizadeh, Ben Lemkin)

2021 **East:** The Secret Square (MacKenzie Molner, Jason Lu, Sean Finn, Ed Knesevitch); **North:** a happy jubilant pawn (Jennifer Yu, Dachey Lin, Guannan Song, Maggie Luo); **South:** Narein's Disciples (Raghav Venkat, Nicolas Alejandro de la Colina, Sharvesh Deviprasath, Rohun Trakru)*; **West:** UC Berkeley Team B (Rayan Taghizadeh, Arjun Bjarat, Christopher Pan, Nathan Fong)

ONLINE: COVID-19 • January-February 2021

STATE INVITATIONALS

JOHN T. IRWIN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

2020 Alex Fishbein

2021 Igor Khmelnitsky

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

GM ARNOLD DENKER NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

2020 Nicolas Checa

2021 Awonder Liang

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

WIM RUTH HARING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS

2020 Annie Wang

2021 Ruiyang Yan, Ambica Yellamraju

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

DEWAIN BARBER NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

2020 Evan Park, Jason Liang

2021 Vyom Vidyarthi

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

2020 Bryan Xie

2021 Pedro Espinosa, Aidan Carey, Elijah Samuel Platnick

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY NATIONAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT OF STATE CHAMPIONS

2020 Nicolas Checa (2200+), Sandeep Sethuraman, Ryan Amburgy (1600-2199), Kyle Ching (U1600)

2021 Awonder Liang (2200+); Ambica Yellamraju, Arnav Tamnash Gupta (1800-2100); Lucas Flach (1400-1799); Andrew Jing (U1400)

Cherry Hill, New Jersey • July-August 2021

SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONS

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY

2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY BLITZ
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY BLITZ TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY BUGHOUSE
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH BLITZ
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH BLITZ TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH BUGHOUSE
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BLITZ
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BLITZ TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUGHOUSE
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

NATIONAL ONLINE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP
2021 **K-1:** Winter Su; **K-3:** Andrew Wu, Roshan Sethuraman, Sam Luger; **K-5:** Sho Moritani, Eric Chang Liu, Luca Giorgio Tessiore, Tanitoluwa Adewumi, Alexander J. Wang; **K-6:** Erick Zhao; **K-9:** Hersh Singh; **K-12:** Justin Wang

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 **K:** Winston Huang Wang, Sriansh Katta; **1st:** Vishnu Chetlapalli, Yang Yu; **2nd:** Tariq Yue; **3rd:** Ethan Guo; **4th:** Megan Alt Paragua, Connor Junda Wang; **5th:** Andrew Jiang; **6th:** Eric Chang Liu, Luca Chang, Sahana Aravindakshan, Julian Colville, Oliver Boydell; **7th:** Brewington Hardaway; **8th:** Raymond Xu, Aniket Shukla, William Wu; **9th:** Nico Werner Chasin; **10th:** Gus Huston, Jason Lu; **11th:** Raghav Venkat; **12th:** Pradhyumna Kumar Kothapalli
Orlando, Florda • December 2021

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 **K:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **1st:** Oak Hall (FL); **2nd:** The Speyer Legacy School (NY); **3rd:** Anderson School (NY); **4th:** P.S. 10 (NY); **5th:** Washington School (NJ); **6th:** I.S. 318 (NY); **7th:** Lincoln Middle School (FL), I.S. 318 (NY); **8th:** Edgemont High School (NY); **9th:** Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY); **10th:** The Dalton School (NY); **11th:** Stuyvesant High School (NY); **12th:** Stuyvesant High School (NY)
Orlando, Florda • December 2021

NATIONAL JUNIOR CONGRESS
2020 **6 & Under:** Ethan Guo; **8 & Under:** Vedant Talwalkar, Allen Yang; **10 & Under:** Omya Vidyarthi, Andrew Guo; **12 & Under:** Aghila Nachiappan; **14 & Under:** Hersh Singh; **20/18/16 & Under:** Arun Dixit (20 & Under), Anika Rajaram (18 & Under), Arul Viswanathan (16 & Under)

2021 **6 & Under:** Andrew Zou, Owen Xu, Tarig Yue; **8 & Under:** Harvey Hanke, Vijay Srinivas Anandh, Jayden Wu, Suhas Indukuri, Sharath Radhakrishnan; **10 & Under:** Aaradhya Panda, Jocelyn Chen, Alexander Braun, Aavi Bharucha; **12 & Under:** Matthew Gao, Sean Kelly, Derin Goktepe; **14 & Under:** Hersh Singh, Nitish Sg Nathan; **16/18 & Under:** Terry Luo, Brejesh Chakrabarti
ONLINE: Covid-19 • April 2021

ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL TEAM
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Canceled: COVID-19

COLLEGE CHAMPIONS

PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE INDIVIDUAL
2019 Alexander Ipatov, Yannick Kambrath, Aaron Grabinsky

2020-21 Andrew Tang
ONLINE: COVID-19 • January 2021 (for 2020/21 title)

PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM
2019 Texas Tech University - A

2020-21 Webster University Team A
ONLINE: COVID-19 • January 2021 (for 2020/21 title)

THE PRESIDENT'S CUP (FINAL FOUR)
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
ONLINE: COVID-19 • April 2021

AMERICAN CLASSICS

AMERICAN OPEN
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Melikset Khachiyan
Orange, California • November 2021

WORLD OPEN
2020 Panneerselvam Iniyan, Sanan Sjugirov

2021 Hans Niemann, John Burke
Philadephia, Pennsylvania • July 2021

NORTH AMERICAN OPEN
2020 D Gukesh, Bryan Solano Cuya, Jakhongir Vakhidov

2021 Awonder Liang, Vladimir Akopian
Las Vegas, Nevada • December 2021

U.S. MASTERS
2020 Canceled: COVID-19

2021 Jose Alcantara Martinez, Peddi Rahul Srivatshav
Charlotte, North Carolina • November 2021

AMERICAN WORLD CHAMPIONS

2021 FIDE ONLINE CADETS & YOUTH RAPID SUPER FINAL
Alice Lee (Girls Under 12)
ONLINE: COVID-19 • December 2021

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

U.S. CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPIONS
2007-2009: Thomas Biedermann, Lawrence Coplin; **2010:** Edward Duliba; **2011:** John Ballow; **2013:** Wolf Morrow, Carl Siefring; **2015:** Grayling Hill

GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPIONS
2007: Daniel Woodard; **2008:** James Rhodes; **2009:** Wilbur Tseng; **2010:** Michael Buss; **2011:** James Tracz; **2012:** Michael Buss; **2013:** Gary Adams

USCF ABSOLUTE CHAMPIONS
2007: Edward Duliba; **2008:** Ciaran O'Hare; **2009:** Dave Sogin, Gary Walters; **2010:** Harry Ingersol; **2011:** John Menke; **2012:** John Menke; **2013:** Wilbur Tseng; **2014:** Tony Kain; **2015:** Kristo Miettinen; **2016:** Danny Horwitz; **2017:** Harry Ingersol; **2018:** Robert Rizzo

ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS CHAMPION
2011: Tim Corkum; **2012:** Anthony Kain; **2013:** Samir Alazawi; **2014:** Chris

TOP 50 FIDE-RATED AMERICANS

Active players from the January 2022 FIDE Rating List.

			Rtg.
1.	Fabiano Caruana	GM	2792
2.	Levon Aronian	GM	2772
2.	Wesley So	GM	2772
4.	Leinier Dominguez Perez	GM	2752
5.	Sam Shankland	GM	2708
6.	Jeffery Xiong	GM	2686
7.	Samuel Sevian	GM	2684
8.	Ray Robson	GM	2676
9.	Gata Kamsky	GM	2657
10.	Dariusz Swiercz	GM	2656
11.	Hans Moke Niemann	GM	2645
12.	Alexander Onischuk	GM	2640
13.	Lazaro Bruzon Batista	GM	2636
14.	Yaroslav Zherebukh	GM	2623
15.	Aleksandr Lenderman	GM	2622
16.	Daniel Naroditsky	GM	2616
17.	Vladimir Akopian	GM	2614
18.	Varuzhan Akobian	GM	2600
18.	Yuniesky Quesada Perez	GM	2600
20.	Awonder Liang	GM	2597
21.	Larry Christiansen	GM	2577
22.	Timur Gareyev	GM	2573
23.	Alejandro Ramirez	GM	2573
24.	John M. Burke	GM	2567
25.	Gregory Kaidanov	GM	2556
26.	Conrad Holt	GM	2553
27.	Igor Novikov	GM	2551
28.	Boris Gulko	GM	2542
29.	Elsha Moradiabadi	GM	2540
30.	Robert Hungaski	GM	2537
30.	Fidel Corrales Jimenez	GM	2537
32.	Brandon Jacobson	GM	2533
33.	Nicolas Checa	GM	2531
34.	Praveen Balakrishnan	GM	2524
35.	Abhimanyu Mishra	GM	2510
36.	Andrew Tang	GM	2508
37.	Andrew Hong	GM	2504
37.	Alexander Shabalov	GM	2504
39.	Christopher Woojin Yoo	IM	2500
40.	Joel Benjamin	GM	2496
41.	Alexander Stripunsky	GM	2493
42.	Julio Becerra Rivero	GM	2491
43.	Steven Zierk	GM	2488
44.	Joshua Sheng	GM	2487
45.	David Brodsky	IM	2486
46.	Akshat Chandra	GM	2484
47.	Leonid Sokolin	IM	2482
48.	Igor Khmelnitsky	IM	2472
49.	Justin Wang	IM	2468
50.	Balaji Daggupati	IM	2467

Lewis; **2015:** John Millett; **2016:** Tim Corkum; **2017:** Ferdinand Burmeister; **2018:** Tim Corkum

INTERNATIONAL TITLISTS

FIDE awards titles for outstanding achievement in three areas of chess competition: Over-the-board play, correspondence play, and composition.

GRANDMASTERS

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(from International Correspondence Chess Federation, January 2022)

		Rtg.
1.	GM Alik Samulovich Zilberberg	2597
2.	GM Stephen E. Ham	2579
3.	GM Tim Murray	2560
4.	GM Daniel Fleetwood	2555
5.	GM Jon Ostriker	2537
6.	SIM Jon Edwards	2529
7.	SIM Bobby Johnson	2524
9.	GM Jason Bokar	2511
9.	IM Denny Marbourg	2509
10.	SIM Wolff Morrow	2508
11.	SIM Dan Perry	2501
12.	SIM Wilbur Tseng	2492
13.	GM Carl L. Siefring	2491
14.	SIM Kenneth M. Reinhart	2488
15.	SIM Neil Kulick	2486
16.	SIM Wieland Belka	2483
17.	SIM Ciaran O'Hare	2472
18.	IM Oliver Koo	2471
19.	SIM Thomas Biedermann	2469
19.	IM Kyle Biedermann	2469
21.	IM Yoandy Rodriguez Fraga	2460
22.	IM Thomas Williams	2459
23.	IM Larry Parsons	2456
24.	SIM Kenneth Holroyd	2455
25.	IM Angel Hernandez	2452

• Luis Salinas • Patricia Smith

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US CHESS AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2020 FM Sunil Weeramantry (NY)

2021 W. Allen Priest (KY), Mike Nietman (WI), IA Ken Ballou (MA) (posthumous)

OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2020 Bruce Pandolfini (NY), IM John Watson (CA)

2021 FM Alex Dunne (PA)

SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD

2020 Mark Wells (NM), Jonathan Crumiller (NJ)

2021 Robert Franklin (NC), Pete Tamburro (NJ)

MERITORIOUS SERVICES AWARD

2020 Paul Covington (CO), Edward Baur (MO), Thomas Braunlich (OK), Janelle Losoff (NV), Jeffrey Ashton (TX), Walter M. High (NC)

2021 Lauren Goodkind (CA), Richard Smouse (AZ)

COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

2020 Scholastic committee

2021 Nominating Committee: David Grimaud, Chair

CHESS CITY OF THE YEAR

2020 New York, New York

2021 None named

KOLTANOWSKI AWARD

2020 **Gold:** Frank P. Samford III (GA), Saint Louis Chess Club (Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield) (MO), John D. Rockefeller V (MD); **Silver:** New Jersey State Chess Federation, American Intercultural Education (Lin Johnson) (NC), Richard and Barbara Schiffrin (PA), Maureen and David Grimaud (SC)

2021 **Gold:** Saint Louis Chess Club (MO), John D. Rockefeller V (MD); **Silver:** David H. Raymond (FL)

U.S. CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2020 Rex Sinquefield (MO), Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield (MO)

2021 Dr. Frank Brady, IM James ("Jimmy") Sherwin

SCHOLASTIC SERVICE AWARDS

2020 **Individual:** Christina Schweiss (VA); **Organization:** The Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation (IL)

2021 **Individual:** Danny Rohde (NY); **Organization:** Internet Chess Club

ORGANIZER OF THE YEAR

2020 Jay Stallings (CA)

2021 FA Abel Talamantez (CA-N)

FRANK J. MARSHALL AWARD

2020 FM Aviv Friedman (NJ)

2021 IM Stuart Rachels (AL)

GRANDMASTER OF THE YEAR

2020 GM Fabiano Caruana (MO)

2021 GM Wesley So (MO)

HONORARY CHESS MATE

2020 Maxine Brady (NY)

2021 None named

CHESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

2020 John Hartmann

2021 John Hartmann

CHESS CLUB OF THE YEAR

2020 San Diego Chess Club (CA)

2021 Toms River Chess Club (NJ)

CHESS COLLEGE OF THE YEAR

2020 Texas Tech University (TX)

2021 University of California, Berkeley (CA)

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

2020 Glenn Panner (IL)

2021 FA Joseph Yun (OH) (posthumously)

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2020 Todd J. Barre (IL)

2021 IO Franc Guadalupe (TX)

OUTSTANDING PLAYER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2020 Viktors Pupols (WA), GM Dmitry Gurevich (IL), IM Michael Brooks (MO)

2021 FM John A. Curdo (MA)

OUTSTANDING TEAM PERFORMANCE AWARD

2020 World Cadet Team

2021 US Team in FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities: Coach Lior Lapid

WOMAN CHESSPLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2020 Carissa Yip (MA)

2021 GM Irina Krush (NY)

ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES PERSON OF THE YEAR

2020 Abel Talamantez (CA-N)

2021 Joan DuBois (TN)

DAN HEISMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHESS INSTRUCTION

2021 Bruce Pandolfini (NY)

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2021 Praveen Balakrishnan, Akshat Chandra, Nicholas Checa, Abhimanyu Mishra, Hans Niemann, Carissa Yip, Christopher Yoo

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2021 Destynn Keuchel (OH), Christopher Shen (OH), Wesley Wang (NY), Iris Zhou (MO), Evelyn Zhu (NY)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX

2020 Zurab Javakhadze

2021 Vladimir Belous

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Contact: Mike Nietman. Website: *wischess.org*; **Wyoming:** Wyoming Chess Association. Contact: Brian Lee Walker. Website: *wyomingchess.com*

2021 STATE CHAMPIONS

Alabama: Unknown; **Alaska:** Unknown; **Arizona:** Unknown; **Arkansas:** Unknown; **California, Northern:** Unknown• **California, Southern:** Unknown; **Colorado:** Unknown; **Connecticut:** Unknown; **Delaware:** Unknown; District of **Columbia:** David Sherman; **Florida:** Unknown; **Georgia:** Alphonso Zapata, Deepak Aaron; Womens: Alisa Scherbakoba, Jwalanthi Ram; **Hawaii:** Michael Omori; **Idaho:** Larry Parsons; **Illinois:** Kevin Velazquez; **Indiana:** Braydon Povinelli; **Iowa:** Unknown; **Kansas:** Sameeth Sheshappa; **Kentucky:** Unknown; **Louisiana:** Unknown; **Maine:** Max Berube; **Maryland:** Bijan Tahmassebi; **Massachusetts:** Unknown; **Michigan:** Unknown; **Minnesota:** Unknown; **Mississippi:** Benson Schexnaydre; **Missouri:** Julian Prolieko; **Montana:** Benjamin Vogel; **Nebraska:** John Linscott, Kent Nelson; **New Hampshire:** Unknown; **New Jersey:** Unknown; **New Mexico:** Unknown; **New York:** IM Jason Liang; **North Carolina:** Tianqi Wang; **North Dakota:** Unknown; **Ohio:** Eigen Wang, Deshawn Kelley; **Oklahoma:** Unknown; **Oregon:** Matt Zavortink; **Pennsylvania:** Unknown; **Rhode Island:** No 2021 Champion; **South Carolina:** IM Alexander Matros; **South Dakota:** Unknown; **Tennessee:** GM Alexander Fishbein; **Texas:** Austen J. Green; **Utah:** Michael Lu ; **Vermont:** David Carter; **Virginia:** Jason P. Morefield; **Washington:** IM Anthony He; **West Virginia:** Benjamin Good, Lewis Sanders; **Wisconsin:** Avinash Rajendra; **Wyoming:** Unknown

MAKE YOUR MOVE

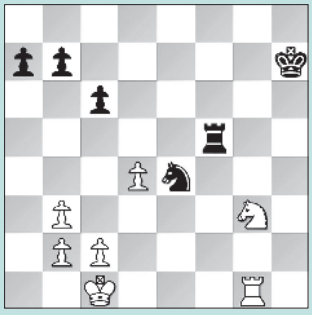
BY **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE FROM ALL TAKEN FROM THE Tata Steel tournament and the Battle of the Sexes event in Gibraltar.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. It is worth noting that "easy" is a relative term. If you are new to the game, the easy ones can also represent a challenge.

Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in 1-2 weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles. You will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Solutions begin on page 58.

TACTIC I.



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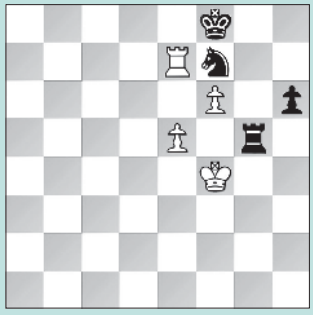
TACTIC II.

WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC III.



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TACTIC IV.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC V.

WHITE TO MOVE

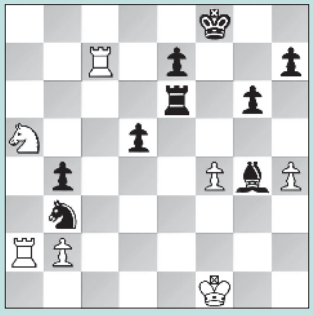
TACTIC VI.

WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VII.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC VIII.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC IX.

WHITE TO MOVE

Position 1: BACK RANK ISSUES
Position 2: EVERYBODY JOIN THE PARTY
Position 3: COORDINATE, THEN DESTROY
Position 4: DISTRACT THE DEFENDER
Position 5: COMBINE THREATS
Position 6: ENOUGH OF THE RIGHT KINDS
Position 7: WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND
Position 8: A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE
Position 9: FINDING A DOOR TO ENTER

Fortune Smiles on the Brave

A tactical melee from a young Réti

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

NOT EVERY NEAT LITTLE chess game is conducted perfectly. Even the best players make questionable decisions. One feature that can mark a chess game as worthwhile, despite unconvincing move choices, is consistency. That is, staying with a plan or overall approach to bring about an intended result.

Such is the case with the following game played at Apatija in 1912 between Richard Réti and Oldrich Duras (Black). From the beginning, Réti takes obvious chances to fuel a slightly dubious attack. With correct defense, it probably shouldn't have worked. Today's engines surely would have rebuffed Réti's aggression, but as implied by the title of philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's insightful tome, *Human, All Too Human,* the task proved to be a tad harder for Duras the human being.

KING'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED (C36)

Richard Réti
Oldrich Duras
Opatija, 1912

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 d5 4. exd5 Nf6

Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that White's move is on the next line.**

5. c4 **Par Score 5**
Although they have slightly different evaluations, you may accept ***full credit*** for 5. d4, 5. Bb5+, or 5. Nc3.

5. ... c6
Black plays to open lines for development and to obtain counterplay against the White center.**

6. d4 **Par Score 5**
Accept ***full credit*** for 6. Nc3. With the text, White aims to capture the f4-pawn.

6. ... cxd5
Black has a fine game, with good play against the loose White center.**

7. Bxf4 **Par Score 5**
Réti eliminates the intrusive black pawn, which could possibly serve as an anchor of invasion on the e3-square, while also usefully influencing the g3-square. Once again, you may accept ***full credit*** for 7. Nc3.

7. ... Bb4+
Developing with a gain of time, Black hopes to expedite castling.**

8. Nc3 **Par Score 5**
This block is slightly better than 8. Nbd2, which obstructs the d-file.

8. ... 0-0
With the e-file open, and White's king still sitting in the center, Black has more than sufficient play. Réti doesn't seem to mind the potential risks.**

9. Bd3 **Par Score 5**
Developing the bishop to the e2-square would temporarily close the e-file, but White is playing for attack, and that's that. ***Full credit*** for 9. Be2.

9. ... Re8+
Naturally, this check is inviting. Black positions the rook with a gain of time.**

10. Be5 **Par Score 5**
Réti possibly didn't like the feel of 10. Ne5 Bg4. He's still aiming for tactical possibilities, which aren't there yet.

10. ... Be6
This is certainly good, but 10. ... Ng4, or even 10. ... Bg4, were not to be dismissed, especially with White's center so tenuous.**

11. c5 **Par Score 5**
White closes the center. You may accept ***full credit*** for either 11. Bxf6 or 11. 0-0, but Réti doesn't mind rolling the dice for attack and to mix it up.

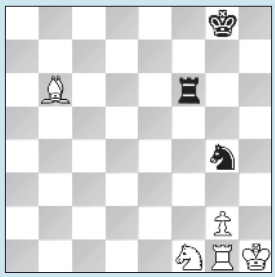
11. ... Ng4
Black's counterattack is not to be sneezed at. The e5- and e3-squares are vulnerable, and White's king remains in the center.**

12. 0-0 **Par Score 6**
This gets the king out of the center, but

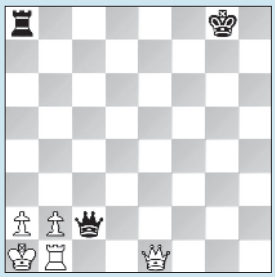
ABCS OF CHESS

CHESS ANALYSIS IS essentially about finding the best move or sequence of moves. Drawing upon various techniques, players typically create a candidates list and then compare options to arrive at their next turn. As an experiment in practice sessions, try applying the same open-mindedness to finding, not the best move, but the worst one. It can be difficult, since the mind is not used to making such negative evaluations. Yet both pursuits involve similar tools of assessment and objectivity. Give it a try, and don't be surprised to see how much fun it can be, especially at chess parties. Solutions are on page 59.

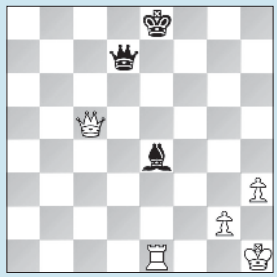
PROBLEM 1
Mating net



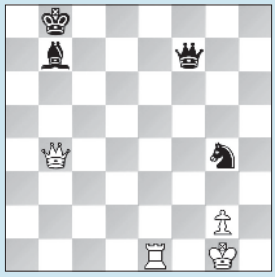
PROBLEM 2
Mating net



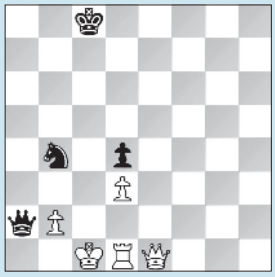
PROBLEM 3
Mating net



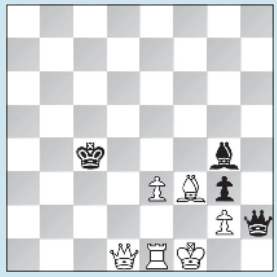
PROBLEM 4
Mating net



PROBLEM 5
Mating net



PROBLEM 6
Mating net



there's still the question of a possible invasion on e3.

12. ... Bxc3
Duras removes the c3-knight before proceeding. His dark-square bishop wasn't doing much anyway.**

13. bxc3 **Par Score 5**

13. ... Ne3
The die is cast. Black plays to win the Exchange. But in light of what follows, both 13. ... Nc6 or 13. ... Nxe5 would have been more prudent.**

14. Bxh7+ **Par Score 6**
Not quite a "Classic Bishop Sac," this was Réti's indirect defense. Accept ***1 bonus point*** if you analyzed 14. ... Kxh7 15. Qd3+ Nf5 16. g4.

14. ... Kh8
Black turns down capturing the bishop for now. Meanwhile, the Exchange still hangs in the air.**

15. Qd2 **Par Score 5**
This doesn't look right, but it contains a dash of poison.

15. ... Nxf1
Duras follows through on his invasionary intention. But...**

16. Qh6 **Par Score 6**
A surprise! Instead of taking the knight, which can't really flee, Réti threatens mate, while protecting the h7-bishop. Things are finally going White's way.

16. ... f6
Threats and counterthreats abounding, Black stops the mate. Various pieces are still hanging.**

17. Qh5 **Par Score 5**
This withdrawal gets the queen to safety and threatens a discovery. But at least as good, and maybe better, was 17. Qh4 (***full credit***).

17. ... Bg4
With White's queen on h4 (instead of h5), this defense, good or bad, wouldn't have been possible.**

18. Qxg4 **Par Score 5**
White still could have played 18. Qh4 (***full credit***). Add ***1 bonus point*** for analyzing 18. Qh4 Bxf3 19. Bg6+ Kg8 20. Qh7+ Kf8 21. Qh8+ Ke7 22. Qxg7+ Ke6 23. Qf7 mate.

18. ... Kxh7
On the desperado 18. ... Nxh2, White would have continued with 19. Qh5 (***1 bonus point***).**

19. Rxf1 **Par Score 6**
White stops to collect the knight and improve his remaining rook. You may accept ***full credit*** for inserting 19. Qh5+ first.

19. ... Nd7
Black develops, hitting the e5-bishop and defending the f6-square. But Duras might have tried 19. ... Qd7. Now, he simply loses, and Réti's attacking bravado triumphs.**

20. Qh5+ **Par Score 5**

20. ... Kg8**

21. Ng5 **Par Score 6**
Threatening a murderous queen intrusion.

21. ... Nf8
Black's knight stops the crushing 22. Qh7+, but White has another flashpoint the knight can't cover.**

22. Qf7+ **Par Score 5**
Black's king is driven to the exposed h-file.

22. ... Kh8**

23. Rf4 **Par Score 6**
A decisive rook lift! With the rook headed for the h4-square, it's all over. Note that 23. ... fxg5 ends badly after 24. Qxg7 mate. So...

23. ... Black resigned. ✥

The New Nimzo-Indian

Get up-to-date with Ganguly, Gupta, and Marin.

BY **IM JOHN WATSON**

I HAVEN'T BEEN ATTENDING tournaments recently, but from talking with friends and students, it's clear that more and more players are paying close attention to the many e-books about openings that are appearing each month. When a serious player is preparing an opening variation, whether before a tournament or when facing a specific opponent, it's become routine to ascertain what the most popular e-books are recommending in that variation. This is particularly the case if your opponents are young and/or regulars on the tournament circuit.

This month I want to look at some recent products about the Nimzo-Indian Defense: 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4. GM Surya Ganguly has put out a complete repertoire for Chessable centered around the Nimzo-Indian and Semi-Tarrasch defenses. Ganguly is a major figure in Indian chess, having won numerous international tournaments over the years, including six consecutive Indian championships. He gained a distinguished international reputation as a second for GM Viswanathan Anand for the latter's world championship victories over GMs Vladimir Kramnik, Veselin Topalov, and Boris Gelfand. In fact, several of the unused novelties from preparation for those matches appear in this repertoire.

As with other Chessable courses, you can buy the training files and study the raw moves, or spend more money and get Ganguly's video instruction for each line as well. I have to say that I was extremely impressed with his style and instructive explanations and believe that developing players will definitely benefit from his commentary.

Ganguly's relatively dynamic interpretation of the Nimzo requires a fair number of active and precise moves, but he consistently finds the tactical resources needed to justify his repertoire choices. The following line has been extremely popular for White, especially at the top levels:

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 0–0 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 d5 7. Nf3 dxc4 8. Qxc4 b6 9. Bg5 Bb7

Current practice favors 9. … Ba6, but I like Ganguly's recommendation. In the most important line, he finds a stunning queen sacrifice:

10. Rc1 h6 11. Bh4 c5 12. dxc5 Nbd7! 13. c6 Rc8 14. Qa4 Qc7 15. Qxa7 Ne4 16. Bg3

16. … Qxc6!! 17. Rxc6 Rxc6

Threatening … Rc6-c1 mate. Ganguly appends massive analysis here, of which I'll cite a few highlights:

18. e3

A cute win follows after 18. Bf4 Rfc8 19. Kd1 Nxf2+ 20. Kd2 Rc2+ 21. Ke3 Nd1+ 22. Kd3 Nxb2+ 23. Ke3 Nd1+ 24. Kd3 R8c3+ 25. Kd4 Rc4+ 26. Kd3 Nc5 mate.

18. … Rc1+ 19. Ke2 Rfc8 20. Nd4!

White has to play perfectly: 20. Qxb7 R8c2+ 21. Nd2 Rxd2+ 22. Kf3 f5! 23. h4 Ne5+ 24. Kf4 (*24. Bxe5 Rxf2* mate) 24. … Ng6+ (or *24. … Rc5*) 25. Kf3 Rxb2 26. Qb8+ (*26. h5 Ng5* mate; *26. Bd3 Ne5+*) 26. … Kh7 27. Bd3 Nd2+ 28. Ke2 Rxh1 and here the attack is still overwhelming.

20. … Ndc5! 21. Qxb6 Rb1 22. Qb4 f5 23. Be5!

Black has a slight edge after 23. h4 Ba6+ 24. Kf3 Bxf1 25. Rxf1 Rxf1.

23. … Nd3 24. Qxb7! Re1+ 25. Kf3 Nxe5+ 26. Kf4 Ng6+ 27. Kf3 Ne5+ with a repetition.

Part 2 of Ganguly's repertoire focuses on the move 3. Nf3, to which he responds with 3. … d5. This can lead to the Catalan after 4. g3, or the Semi-Tarrasch after 4. Nc3 c5 (he avoids the main lines of the Classical Queen's Gambit after 4. Bg5 by playing 4. … dxc4). In the latter case, **5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 cxd4 8. cxd4 Bb4+ 9. Bd2 Bxd2+ 10. Qxd2 0-0** is an ancient main line that has been holding its own for Black, especially at the elite level, over the past 10 years or so.

(see diagram next page)

When I compared Ganguly's lines with GM Sam Shankland's recommendations for White, along with the most recent games and engine-assisted analysis, I found that Ganguly's ideas held up well.

A side-note: I should mention that if one wants to enter into the Semi-Tarrasch, Black

is better off with this 3. Nf3 d5 move order; for one thing, 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 doesn't necessarily transpose to the same Semi-Tarrasch positions if White chooses 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 c5 7 Rb1 (*7. a3* is also very interesting, to stop ... Bf8-b4+, as FM Kamil Plichta recommends in his *Go for the Throat* Chessable course). Then 7. ... cxd4 8. cxd4 Nc6 9. Nf3 Bb4+ 10. Bd2 Bxd2+ 11. Qxd2 yields a position in which Black would rather have his knight on the preferred modern square of d7 than on c6, even if White's b1-rook would be better off on d1 or c1. White can get a less forcing game with moves such as 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 c5 5. e3, where Ganguly gives extremely thorough analysis demonstrating equality, but there's still a rich and complex struggle ahead.

Ganguly's sections on other answers to 1. d4 Nf6 are impressively executed. As he says, "Versus sidelines, you can literally close your eyes and play 1. ... Nf6, 2. ... d5, and 3. ... c5." That is true against most lines, e.g., 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bf4 c5, 2. Bf4 d5 3. e3 c5, and 2. Bg5 d5 3. Bxf6 (*3. e3 c5*) 3. ... gxf6, and one of many lines is 4. e3 c5, although against 4. c4, Ganguly likes 4. ... e5. Realistically, White has numerous options here, and Ganguly duly supplies a wealth of variations to support his case.

From White's point of view, playing against the Nimzo-Indian has proven to be a burdensome task for 1. d4 players over the years. The recent revival of the Sämisch Variation 4. a3 (and transpositions with lines arising from 4. f3) is therefore intriguing, since no other approach so shamelessly tries to grab space and attack, even at the cost of assuming weaknesses.

GM Abhijeet Gupta's Modern Chess video *Saemisch Variation against Nimzo-Indian Defence* provides an ideal introduction to the modern interpretation. Gupta has had a solid career, winning the world junior championship while achieving a peak rating of 2667. He emphasizes original analysis and preserving dynamic chances in his repertoire. Here's an important line that illustrates both:

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 c5 6. f3

The latest fashion, although 6. e3 has been the main move for years. Carlsen has recently introduced some new ideas with it, so that's another promising path for White to pursue.

6. ... Nc6

Gupta also has some new ideas for White in the well-known lines after 6. ... d5 7. cxd5 Nxd5 (*7. ... exd5* is also exhaustively analyzed) 8. dxc5, which are still full of interest.

7. e4 d6

Gupta comments, "Here I am giving a couple of options for White which both are objectively correct and lead to complicated play, and will give your opponent concrete problems over the board."

8. d5!?

Remarkably, most authors of repertoires who recommend this line for Black don't even mention this move. It's typical of Gupta to find new ideas that don't simply mimic the latest games.

He also recommends 8. Ne2 as an equally valid option. Carlsen has played it a few times, and very recently GM Saleh Salem has won a few games with it. After 8. ... b6 Gupta analyzes 9. Bg5 (*9. Ng3* is Saleh's latest preference) 9. ... h6 10. Bh4, when one thematic idea is 10. ... g5 11. Bf2 Na5 12. h4 Rg8 13. Nc1 g4 14. h5! with the idea Bf2-h4.

8. ... Na5 9. Bd3 b6 10. Ne2 Ba6 11. 0–0 Nd7

An important move, threatening to take on c4 by preempting Qd1-a4+. After 11. ... 0–0? 12. Bg5! is very strong for White, as is 11. ... h6? 12. dxe6! fxe6 13. Nf4.

12. f4! 0–0

Tempting is 12. ... Bxc4?, but 13. Bxc4 Nxc4 14. dxe6 fxe6 15. f5! is already close to winning for White.

13. Ra2 Bxc4 14. Bxc4 Nxc4 15. dxe6 fxe6 16. f5

This is to be followed by Ne2-f4 with great positional compensation for the pawn.

Finally, I want to mention Mihail Marin's excellent *Positional Nimzo-Indian Repertoire*, also from Modern Chess. In the main lines, Marin's repertoire is somewhat less dynamic and for the most part less theoretical than Ganguly's. After 4. e3, Black plays 4. ... b6 and if 5. Nge2, the traditional 5. ... Ba6 6. Ng3 Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 d5, or here 6. a3 Be7 7. Nf4 d5, which requires some memorization, but has long been worked out and remains solid.

On 5. Bd3 Bb7 6. Nf3, Marin suggests the rather unusual but respectable 6. ... Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 d6 8 0-0 0-0, with typical blockading themes. After 4. Qc2, he picks a still rarer move, 4. ... b6, that is holding up well in the theory wars. I recommend this work of Marin's for anyone, but particularly for those who prefer positional contests.

Ganguly, Surya. Lifetime Repertoires: Nimzo/Semi-Tarrasch. *Two parts, video and trainable editions. Available at* chessable.com.

Gupta, Abhijeet. Saemisch Variation against Nimzo-Indian Defence. *Video and pgn editions, December 2021. Available at* modern-chess.com.

Marin, Mihail. Positional Nimzo-Indian Repertoire. *Two parts, video and pgn editions. November 2020, February 2021. Available at* modern-chess.com.

TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through April 30, 2022 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "$XXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "$XXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHESS.ORG Effective with the November 2020 *Chess Life*, we have removed the National Events and Bids page that has traditionally been part of our TLA section. This information continues to be available here: **new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar**

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National High School (K-12) Championships

APRIL 8-10, 2022, TENNESSEE

Event site: Renasant Convention Center **Address:** 255 N Main St, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-2244 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/hs* **TLA ID:** 32429

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2022 All-Girls National Championships presented by the Kasparov Chess Foundation in association with Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation & US Chess

APRIL 22-24, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place **Address:** 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Chicago, IL 60616 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** David Heiser **Email:** david.*heiser@renaissanceknights.org* **Phone:** 7738440701 **Website:** *http://allgirls.rknights.org/* **TLA ID:** 31652

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National Middle School (K-8) Championships

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022, TEXAS

Event site: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center **Address:** 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-2244 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/ms* **TLA ID:** 32529

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National Elementary (K-6) Championships

MAY 13-15, 2022, OHIO

Event site: Greater Columbus Convention Center **Address:** 400 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-2244 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/elem* **TLA ID:** 32594

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT

2022 US Amateur East Championship

MAY 28-30, 2022, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Hyatt Morristown **Address:** 3 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Aaron Kiedes **Email:** *akiedes@gmail.com* **Phone:** n/a **Website:** *http://www.njscf.org* **TLA ID:** 33045

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2022 U.S. Women's Open

JUNE 8-9, 2022, NEVADA

Event site: Westgate Las Vegas Resort **Address:** 3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109 **Overall prize fund:** $3,500 **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Vegas Chess Festivals **Email:** *vegas@chessgmail.com* **Phone:** 702-930-9550 **Website:** *https://vegaschessfestival.com* **TLA ID:** 32319

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National Open

JUNE 8-12, 2022, NEVADA

Event site: Westgate Las Vegas Resort **Address:** 3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109 **Overall prize fund:** $100,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Vegas Chess Festivals **Email:** *vegas@chessgmail.com* **Phone:** 702-930-9550 **Website:** *https://vegaschessfestival.com* **TLA ID:** 32321

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

122nd Annual United States Open Chess Championship

JULY 30-AUGUST 7, 2022, CALIFORNIA

Event site: Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa **Address:** 371333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 **Overall prize fund:** $50,000 **GP Points:** 300 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-1234 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/usopen* **TLA ID:** 33031

2021 GRAND PRIX FINAL STANDINGS

Congratulations to the 2021 Grand Prix champion, GM Vladimir Belous.

	Name	State	Count
1.	GM VLADIMIR BELOUS	TX	227.18
2.	GM ILLIA NYZHNYK	MO	170.67
3.	GM HANS NIEMANN	CT	168.04
4.	GM BRANDON JACOBSON	NJ	152.08
5.	GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ	MA	141.00
6.	GM JOHN MICHAEL BURKE	NJ	110.53
7.	GM CHRISTOPHER REPKA	MO	104.83
8.	GM BENJAMIN GLEDURA	MO	103.29
9.	GM ANDREW HONG	CA	101.13
10.	IM BRIAN ESCALANTE	MO	100.70

$12,500 IN CASH PRIZES - FIRST PRIZE: $5,000

visit *new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program* for full details and standings.

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix continues in 2022. For information visit *new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program.*

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th annual Open at Foxwoods

APRIL 13-17, 2022, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Foxwoods Resort Casino **Address:** Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 **Overall prize fund:** $75,000 b/500 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 31762

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

3rd Colonial Open

APRIL 13-17, 2022, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott **Address:** 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 **Overall prize fund:** $14,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Anand Dommalapati- **Email:** *co2022@capitalareachess.com* **Phone:** 7036275314 **Website:** *http://www.ColonialOpenChess.com* **TLA ID:** 32635

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th Annual Sands Regency -Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

APRIL 15-17, 2022, NEVADA

Event site: Sands Regency Hotel Casino **Address:** 345 N Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501 **Overall prize fund:** $27,500 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Jerome V. Weikel **Email:** *wackyykl@aol.com* **Phone:** 775-747-1405 **Website:** *http://www.renochess.org* **TLA ID:** 32344

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods

APRIL 16, 2022, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Foxwoods Resort Casino **Address:** Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32418

GRAND PRIX

2022 Bluff City Open
APRIL 16-17, 2022, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,520 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *hhttps://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 32888

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

27th Space Coast Open
APRIL 22-24, 2022, FLORIDA

Event site: Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center **Address:** 8298 N. Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32940 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Jon Haskel **Email:** *jon@bocachess.com* **Phone:** 561-302-4377 **Website:** *http://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/* **TLA ID:** 32689

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2022 Maine State Open Championship
APRIL 22-24, 2022, MAINE

Event site: Waterville Grand Hotel **Address:** 375 Main St., Waterville, ME 04901 **Overall prize fund:** $1,125 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Maine Chess Association **Email:** *president@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-904-0499 **Website:** *https://www.chessmaine.org/* **TLA ID:** 32700

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

81st Indiana State Chess Championship
APRIL 22-24, 2022, INDIANA

Event site: Ramada **Address:** 2930 Waterfront Pkwy W. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46214 **Overall prize fund:** $3,450 **GP Points:** 6 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Ron Carrell **Email:** *AndersonChessTD@gmail.com* **Phone:** 765-610-9205 **Website:** *indianachess.org* **TLA ID:** 32766

GRAND PRIX

Annual LVCA Bruce Alberston Memorial, $2000 Guaranteed-RBO
APRIL 23, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: College Hill Moravian Church **Address:** 72 W. Laurel St., Bethlehem, PA 18018 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Bruce R. Dvis Sr. **Email:** *srdiamondd@yahoo.com* **Phone:** 4848663045 **Website:** *http://www.lehighvalleychessclub.org/* **TLA ID:** 32899

GRAND PRIX

$3,200 Houston Chess Studio Spring Championship
APRIL 23-24, 2022, TEXAS

Event site: The Houston Chess Studio **Address:** 250 Patton St, Suite H, Houston, TX 77009 **Overall prize fund:** $3,200 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Poison Pawns Chess Club **Email:** *poisonpawnschessclub@gmail.com* **Phone:** 281-844-4139 **Website:** *https://www.poisonpawns.club* **TLA ID:** 32836

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual Eastern Class Championships
APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Sturbridge Host Hotel **Address:** 366 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32412

GRAND PRIX

Sheridan Wyoming Open
APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022, WYOMING

Event site: Whitney Academic Center **Address:** 1 Whitney Way, Sheridan, WY 82801 **Overall prize fund:** $3,875 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Sheridan Chess Association **Email:** *admin@sheridanchess.com* **Phone:** 202-679-6779 **Website:** *http://www.SheridanChess.com* **TLA ID:** 32856

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Chicago Chess Center 4th Haymarket Memorial
APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Student Center East, University of Illinois at Chicago **Address:** 750 S. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60607 **Overall prize fund:** $7,000 b/125 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** William H. Brock **Email:** *billbrock@chichess.org* **Phone:** 7732941709 **Website:** *http://www.chichess.org/events* **TLA ID:** 32930

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 DFW FIDE Premier 3
MAY 6-8, 2022, TEXAS

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North **Address:** 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Luis Salinas **Email:** *info@dallaschess.com* **Phone:** 2146329000 **Website:** *http://www.dallaschess.com/* **TLA ID:** 32572

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2nd annual Niagara Falls Open
MAY 13-15, 2022, NEW YORK

Event site: Sheraton Niagara Falls **Address:** 300 3rd St, Niagara Falls NY 14303 **Overall prize fund:** $12,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32660

GRAND PRIX

2022 John Hurt Memorial
MAY 14, 2022, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** $1,350 **GP Points:** 6 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *https://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 32900

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

31st annual Chicago Open
MAY 26-30, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $100,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32120

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th Cherry Blossom Classic
MAY 26-30, 2022, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott **Address:** 45020 Aviation Dr, Dulles, VA 20166 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Anand Dommalapati **Email:** *cbc2022@capitalareachess.com* **Phone:** 7036275314 **Website:** *http://www.cherryblossomchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32735

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

77th Annual Texas State and Amateur
MAY 27-30, 2022, TEXAS

Continental Chess OTB Tournament Schedule

See www.chessevents.us for details, possible changes, other events

OPEN AT FOXWOODS, Apr 13-17, 14-17 or 15-17, Foxwoods Resrt Casino, Connecticut. GM & IM norms possible in 9 round Open Section, other sections are 7 rounds., $75,000 projected prizes, $50,000 minimum guaranteed, top 3 sections are FIDE rated..

FIDE U2400 AT FOXWOODS, Apr 16-17. $2000 guaranteed prizes

EASTERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS, Apr 29-May 1 or Apr 30-May 1, Sturbridge, Mass. $20,000 guaranteed przes.

NIAGARA FALLS OPEN, May 13-15 or 14-15, Sheraton Hotel, next to Seneca Casino. $12,000 guaranteed prizes.

CHICAGO OPEN, Memorial Day weekend, May 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 or 29-30, Westin Chicgo North Shore Hotel. GM & IM norms possible in 9 round Open Section, other sections are 7 rounds. $100,000 guaranteed prizes. Top 3 sections are FIDE rated.

CHICAGO FIDE UNDER 2200, May 29-30. FIDE rated, $1000 guaranteed prizes

NORTHEAST OPEN, June 10-12 or 11-12, Stamford, CT. $15,000 guaranteed.

CLEVELAND OPEN, June 10-12 or 11-12. $15,000 guaranteed..

MIDWEST CHESS CONGRESS, June 17-19 or 18-19, Des Moines, Iowa. $10,000 guaranteed.

WORLD OPEN IN PHILADELPHIA: 9 rounds, $225,000 guaranteed. GM & IM norms possible, top 3 sections are FIDE rated. June 30-July 4, July 1-4, 2-4 or June 29-July 4.

WORLD OPEN SIDE EVENTS:

June 23-24: World Open Under 13 Champ, Senior Amateur, & FIDE U2200.

June 24-26 or 25-26: Philadelphia Open. $15,000 guaranteed prizes.

June 24-28: Philadelphia International. $22,000 guaranteed prizes.

June 27-29. World Open Amateur, $5000 guar.

June 29-30: World Open FIDE U2400.

June 29-30: World Open Women's Champ.

June 30: World Open G/7 Blitz.

July 3: World Open G/10.

July 4: World Open Blitz Championship.

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North **Address:** 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall prize fund:** $4,600 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Luis Salinas **Email:** *info@dallaschess.com* **Phone:** 2146329000 **Website:** *http://www.dallaschess.com/* **TLA ID:** 32357

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

42nd Annual Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

MAY 28-30, 2022, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Towneplace Suites Marriott **Address:** 10336 Richardson Street, Loma Linda, CA 92354 **Overall prize fund:** $10,000 b/200 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Southern California Chess Federation **Email:** *garden909aol.com* **Phone:** 951-505-1064 **Website:** *http://www.scchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32894

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

90th Massachusetts Open

MAY 28-30, 2022, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center **Address:** 219 Littleton Road, Westford MA 01886 **Overall prize fund:** $7,500 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Massachusetts Chess Association **Email:** *info@masschess.org* **Phone:** 603-891-2484 **Website:** *http://www.masschess.org* **TLA ID:** 32895

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Chicago Open Blitz

MAY 29, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $2,500 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32588

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

27th annual Northeast Open

JUNE 10-12 2022, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Stamford Hotel (formerly Sheraton) **Address:** 700 Main St, Stamford, CT 06901 **Overall prize fund:** $15,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32950

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Cleveland Open

JUNE 10-12 2022, OHIO

Event site: Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport **Address:** 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130 **Overall prize fund:** $15,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32990

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Midwest Chess Congress

JUNE 17-19 2022, IOWA

Event site: Ramada Tropics Resort & Conference Center **Address:** 5000 Merle Hay Road (near I-80 & I-35), Des Moines IA 50322 **Overall prize fund:** $10,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32992

GRAND PRIX

David Kernell Memorial

JUNE 18, 2022, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** 6 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *https://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 32924

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Philadelphia Open

JUNE 24-26, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $15,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32123

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

15th annual Philadelphia International

JUNE 24-28, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $22,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32121

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

50th annual World Open

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $225,000 **GP Points:** 300 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32104

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

11th annual World Open Women's Championship

JUNE 29-30, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32615

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

11th annual Game/7 Blitz Championship

JUNE 30, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $1,500 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32631

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

Pacific Southwest Open

JULY 2-4, 2022, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport **Address:** 18880 MacArthur Blvd Irvine CA 92612 **Overall prize fund:** $10,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Chuck Ensey **Email:** *chucnglo@aol.com* **Phone:** 858-432-8006 **Website:** *http://www.scchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32775

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

30th annual World Open Game/10 Championship

JULY 3, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,200 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32633

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

33rd annual World Open Blitz Championship

JULY 4, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $3,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32632

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

15th annual Chicago Class

JULY 15-17, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32928

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

26th annual Pacific Coast Open

JULY 15-17, 2022, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel **Address:** 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406 **Overall prize fund:** $25,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33003

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual Southern Open

JULY 22-24, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32940

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

23rd annual Pittsburgh Open

JULY 22-24, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Doubletree Green Tree **Address:** 500 Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh 152052 **Overall prize fund:** $13,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 33004

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

52nd annual Continental Open

JULY 27-31, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Sturbridge Host Hotel **Address:** 366 Main St (Rt 20 West), Sturbridge MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90 **Overall prize fund:** $35,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32986

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th Annual Washington International

AUGUST 13-17, MARYLAND

Event site: Rockville Hilton **Address:** 1750 Rockville Pike; Rockville, Maryland 20852; United States **Overall prize fund:** $26,725 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michael Regan **Email:** *mregan@stsci.edu* **Phone:** 410-419-5130 **Website:** *https://md-chess.com* **TLA ID:** 32910

Online

Eastern Action on ICC

APRIL 22, 2022

Event site: Internet Chess Club **Address:** *playcca.com* **Overall prize fund:** $3,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *events@chessclub.com* **Phone:** 4124365558 **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32995

2nd annual CCA May Open

MAY 7, 2022

Event site: Internet Chess Club **Address:** *playcca.com* **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *events@chessclub.com* **Phone:** 4124365558 **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32996

Regional

ALABAMA

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

See Tennessee.

APRIL 16-17, 2022

2022 Bluff City Open (TN)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 14, 2022

2022 John Hurt Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 18, 2022

David Kernell Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix.

ARIZONA

MAY 28, 2022

MDC Scholastics (CA-S)

See California.

MAY 28-30, 2022

42nd Annual Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic (CA-S)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022

2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JULY 15-17, 2022
26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

APRIL 16-17, 2022
2022 Bluff City Open (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 14, 2022
2022 John Hurt Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 18, 2022
David Kernell Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMEBER 19, 2021-ONGOING
PCC LBX Hangar Sunday Action
Event site: LBX Hangar Building (inside and out) **Address:** 4150 McGowen St, Long Beach CA 90808 **Overall prize fund:** 80% of total entry fee **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** John Tan **Email:** *paramountchessclub@gmail.com* **Phone:** 3107356871 **Website:** n/a **TLA ID:** 31701

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 28, 2022
MDC Scholastics
Event site: Towneplace Suites Marriott **Address:** 10336 Richardson Street, Loma Linda, CA 92354 **Overall prize fund:** Trophies **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Southern California Chess Federation **Email:** *garden909aol.com* **Phone:** 951-505-1064 **Website:** *http://www.scchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32896

MAY 30, 2022
MDC Action Swiss
Event site: Towneplace Suites Marriott **Address:** 10336 Richardson Street, Loma Linda, CA 92354 **Overall prize fund:** $500 b/40 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Southern California Chess Federation **Email:** *garden909aol.com* **Phone:** 951-505-1064 **Website:** *http://www.scchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32898

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 15-17, 2022
26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

COLORADO

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

CONNECTICUT

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16, 2022
13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022
FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods
Event site: Foxwoods Resort Casino **Address:** Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32651

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or spacecoastchessfoundation.org.

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022
30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 10-12, 2022
27th annual Northeast Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022
52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

DELAWARE

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

FLORIDA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

31st annual CHICAGO OPEN

May 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 or 29-30, Memorial Day weekend- see chessevents.us

8 sections, prizes $100,000 unconditionally guaranteed!

Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling IL - free parking, free lectures by GM John Fedorowicz

Open section, 5/26-30: 9 rounds, 40/90, SD/30,.+30.

Other sections: 5/27-30, 28-30 or 29-30: 7 rounds, 40/90, SD/30, +30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10; 2-day option rds 1-4 G/30 d10). All merge & play for same prizes. Unrated not allowed in U1300 through U1900.

Masks may be required. **Certification** of Covid vaccination required (may change based on pandemic status).

Open: $10000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak first $300 bonus, top FIDE U2400/unr $2000-1000. FIDE rated, GM and IM norms possible.

U2300, U2100, U1900, U1700: Each $5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. U2300 & U2100 are FIDE rated. Unrated limit in U2100, $1000.

U1500, U1300: Each $4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300.

U1000: $1000-500-300-200-200-150-150-100-100-100, unrated limit $200.

FIDE ratings used for Open, May official USCF for others. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Post-event OTB or online rating posted 5/24/21-5/24/22 more than 30 pts over section maximum: prize limit $1500.

Under 26 games prize limit as of May list: U1000 $500, U1300 $1000, U1500 $1500, U1700 $2000, U1900 $2500..

Mixed Doubles: male/female combined score, any section $2000-1000-500-400-300. See chessevents.us.

Entry fee: $207 at chessaction.com by 3/22, $227 by 5/25, $250 to 2 hrs before rd 1 or at site 1 hr before. Open $100 more if not USCF 2200/up or FIDE 2100/up. Senior 65/up $100 less, except U1000. Online $5 less to ICA memb. Mail or titled entry: see chessevents.us.

Under 1000 Section: $67 at chessaction.com by 5/25, $90 online by 2 hours before rd 1 or at site until 1 hour before.

Open titled minimum prizes: see chessevents.us..

5-day schedule (Open only): enter Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

4-day schedule (U2300 to U1500): enter Fri to 6, rds Fri 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

3-day schedule (U2300 to U1500): enter Sat to 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

2-day schedule (U2300 to U1500): enter Sun to 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

U1300, U1000 sections: same as U2300 to U1500 (4-day, 3-day, 2-day options), except last round Mon is 3:30 pm.

1/2-pt byes: limit 3 (2 last 4 rds); must commit before rd 3.

Hotel rates: 1-4/rm $118, link at chessevents.us or 800-937-8461, reserve by 5/12.

USCF membership required, special rates with entry.

Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied. No cellphone possession during play (in bag near table OK)

$2500 guaranteed blitz tournament, Sunday 10:45 pm.

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 22-24, 2022
30th annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

GEORGIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 22-23, 2022
First Annual Bolivar Morales Memorial Club Championships
Event site: Winterville Community Center **Address:** 371 North Church Street, Statham, GA 30683 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Tomas Ramirez **Email:** *tram110@verizon.net* **Phone:** 401-440-7416 **Website:** *https://wintervillecenter.com/* **TLA ID:** 33022

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or spacecoastchessfoundation.org.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

HAWAII

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

IDAHO

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

ILLINOIS

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or spacecoastchessfoundation.org.

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Chicago Chess Center 4th Haymarket Memorial (IL)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29, 2022
9th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29-30, 2022
Chicago FIDE U2200
Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32662

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 17-19, 2022
Midwest Chess Congress (IA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 15-17, 2022
15th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

INDIANA

MARCH 19, 2022
Michigantown Madness (IN)
See Grand Prix.

MARCH 25-27, 2022
26th annual Mid-America Open (MO)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29, 2022
9th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29-30, 2022
Chicago FIDE U2200 (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 15-17, 2022
15th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

IOWA

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 17-19, 2022
Midwest Chess Congress (IA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

APRIL 16-17, 2022
2022 Bluff City Open (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 14, 2022
2022 John Hurt Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 18, 2022
David Kernell Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAINE

APRIL 16, 2022
Kate Gasser Classic Swiss
Event site: Curtis Memorial Library **Address:** 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME, 04011 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Michael Dudley **Email:** *mdudley@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-904-0499 **Website:** *https://chessmaine.net/chessmaine/events/* **TLA ID:** 32743

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)
Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See *www.MD-Chess.org* for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signup for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the $48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 23-24, 2022
14th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
World Open FIDE Under 2200 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022
World Open FIDE U2400 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MASSACHUSETTS

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16, 2022
13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022
FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods (CT)
See Connecticut or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022
30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022
52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MICHIGAN

APRIL 23-24, 2022
2022 Michigan Senior Championships
Event site: Twin Knights Gaming **Address:** 4955 Rochester Rd, Troy, MI 48085 **Overall prize fund:** $300 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michigan Chess Association **Email:** *jeffchess64@gmail.com* **Phone:** 810-955-7271 **Website:** *https://www.michess.org/* **TLA ID:** 32677

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 10-12, 2022
Cleveland Open (OH)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MINNESOTA

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 17-19, 2022
Midwest Chess Congress (IA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

APRIL 16-17, 2022
2022 Bluff City Open (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 14, 2022
2022 John Hurt Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 18, 2022
David Kernell Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MISSOURI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

APRIL 16-17, 2022
2022 Bluff City Open (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 14, 2022
2022 John Hurt Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 17-19, 2022
Midwest Chess Congress (IA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 18, 2022
David Kernell Memorial (TN)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NEBRASKA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

NEVADA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 28, 2022
MDC Scholastics (CA-S)
See California.

MAY 28-30, 2022
42nd Annual Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic (CA-S)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 15-17, 2022
26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 8, 2022-ONGOING ON SATURDAY
ICA Super Saturday IN-PERSON Quads
Event site: Community Church of Glen Rock **Address:** 354 Rock Road, Education Building, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** International Chess Academy **Email:** *chessdirector@icanj.net* **Phone:** 2018198280 **Website:** *https://www.icakidsonline.com* **TLA ID:** 32450

APRIL 23, 2022
ICA Open Championship
Event site: Community Church of Glen Rock **Address:** 354 Rock Road, Education Building, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** International Chess Academy **Email:** *chessdirector@icanj.net* **Phone:** 2017970330 **Website:** *https://www.icakidsonline.com* **TLA ID:** 32923

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022
FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods (CT)
See Connecticut or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or spacecoastchessfoundation.org.

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022
30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 28, 2022, NEW JERSEY
2022 US Amateur East Championship Scholastic
Event site: Hyatt Morristown **Address:** 3 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Aaron Kiedes **Email:** *akiedes@gmail.com* **Phone:** n/a **Website:** *http://www.njscf.org* **TLA ID:** 33046

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 10-12, 2022
27th annual Northeast Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
14th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
World Open FIDE Under 2200 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022
World Open FIDE U2400 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022
11th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 30, 2022
11th annual Game/7 Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 3, 2022
30th annual World Open Game/10 Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 4, 2022
33rd annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022
52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NEW MEXICO

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

NEW YORK

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16, 2022
13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022
FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods (CT)
See Connecticut or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or spacecoastchessfoundation.org.

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022
30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 13-15, 2022
2nd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 10-12, 2022
27th annual Northeast Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
14th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
World Open FIDE Under 2200 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022
World Open FIDE U2400 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022
11th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 30, 2022
11th annual Game/7 Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 3, 2022
30th annual World Open Game/10 Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 4, 2022
33rd annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 22-24, 2022
23rd annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 27-31, 2022
52nd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NORTH DAKOTA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

OHIO

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 13-15, 2022
2nd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 10-12, 2022
Cleveland Open (OH)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 22-24, 2022
23rd annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

OREGON

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JULY 22-24, 2022
30th annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club
Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See *www.northpennchess* club.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or spacecoastchessfoundation.org.

MAY 13-15, 2022
2nd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 10-12, 2022
Cleveland Open (OH)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
14th annual World Open Under 13
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32608

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32609

JUNE 23-24, 2022
World Open FIDE Under 2200
Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32610

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur
Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $5,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32170

JUNE 29-30, 2022
World Open FIDE U2400
Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32614

JUNE 29-30, 2022
11th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 30, 2022
11th annual Game/7 Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 3, 2022
30th annual World Open Game/10 Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 4, 2022
33rd annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 22-24, 2022
23rd annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

SOUTH CAROLINA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

SOUTH DAKOTA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 31,2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club
Event site: Douglas Community Center **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 3810 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *https://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 32334

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

APRIL 23-24, 2022
$3,200 Houston Chess Studio Spring Championship (TX)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

UTAH

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

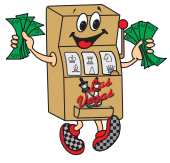
VIRGINIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

$100,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND



NATIONAL OPEN

JUNE 8–12 (OPEN ONLY), 9–12, 10–12, OR 11–12

7 Round Swiss (Open 9) ◦ 8 Sections
Top 3 FIDE Rated ◦ Norms Possible

40/90, SD/30 +30
3-day rounds 1–2 G/60 +10 ◦ 2-day rounds 1–4 G/30 +5
Beginners Section with 3 Schedules of 6 Rounds Each Day at G/30 +5
Winner is a US Chess National Champion and receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup

$3,500 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY JUNE 8–9

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Game/90 +30

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JUNE 23-24, 2022
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See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
World Open FIDE Under 2200 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022
World Open FIDE U2400 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

WASHINGTON

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 8-12, 2022
2022 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JULY 15-17, 2022
26th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

WEST VIRGINIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022
9th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29, 2022
9th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29-30, 2022
Chicago FIDE U2200 (IL)
See Illinois or *chessevents.us.*

JULY 15-17, 2022
15th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

WYOMING

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

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7-Player Championship Events

2022 Golden Knights (Postal) | **2022 Electronic Knights** (Email)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on order entries received. Players start in Preliminary round and qualify for Semi-final and then Final rounds based on scores in previous round. **ENTRY FEE:** $25 per entry. Players can enter up to a maximum of 10 times per event. **PRIZES:** Prize fund of $2300 based on 200 entries. $10 correspondence chess gift certificate to players knocked out in Preliminary round.

7-Player Round Robins

Victor Palciauskas Tournament (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** $5 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives a signed certificate.

4-Player Quads

John W. Collins Memorial (Postal) | **Walter Muir E-Quads** (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as double round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** $10 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives $25 correspondence chess gift certificate and signed certificate.

2-Player Matches (Postal or Email)

FORMAT: Players play either 2, 4, or 6 games against the same opponent. Selecting multiple options may facilitate faster pairings. Pairings based on ratings or players may name their own opponent. **ENTRY FEE:** $5 per entry. **PRIZES:** None.

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  - o Class B: 1500-1999
  - o Class C: 1200-1699
  - o Class D: 1399 and below
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❑ Golden Knights EF: $25 ❑ Electronic Knights EF: $25 | ❑ Palciauskas ICCF EF: $5 | ❑ Muir ICCF Quad EF: $10 ❑ Collins Quad EF: $10 | 2-player matches, EF: $5 per entry, see above for options Postal Match: 2 ❑ | 4 ❑ | 6 ❑ Email Match: 2 ❑ | 4 ❑ | 6 ❑

❑ Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated (note that this may slow down your assignment).

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Solutions

PAGE 11 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 20. Nb4! Qd7 21. Bxe5 wins a knight. **PROBLEM 2.** The pinning 18. Bf4 threatens to win a piece after 19. Nd4 or 19. Rd5. Black resigned after 18. ... Bxe6 (18. ... Rh7 19. Ng5) 19. Bxe6 Rf8 20. Bg3. **PROBLEM 3.** 30. ... Bc6! and … Qd7-d5 threatened … Qd5-g2 mate. White resigned after 31. Rb8 Rxb8 in view of 32. Qxb8+ Kg7 33. h4 Qd5 34. Qc7+ Kg6. **PROBLEM 4.** 20. Nxe7+ Nxe7 (20. ... Rxe7 21. Bxc6) 21. Bxg7! and Black resigns because of 21. ... Kxg7 22. Qxd4+ and 23. Qd4xa7. **PROBLEM 5.** 26. Rxb7! Bxa5 27. Rxb8 (threating 28. Be8xf7+). The game ended 27. ... Qd6 28. Rb7 Bb6 29. Rc6 Qb4 30. Bxf7+ and Black resigned. **PROBLEM 6.** 24. ... e4! with the idea … Nc6-d4. The game went 25. Nd2 Nd4 26. Qxa5 Nxe2+ 27. Kf1 b6 and White resigned.

PAGE 45 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 32. ... Ra5! Black is threatening mate on a1.

Not 32. ... Rg5?? 33. Rh1+ and White is winning. **33. c4** 33. Kb1?? runs into 33. ... Nd2+ 34. Kc1 Nxb3+ 35. cxb3 Ra1+ and Black is winning. **33. ... Ra1+ 34. Kc2 Rxg1 35. Nxe4** This endgame is far from won for Black, but White has a difficult defensive task ahead and eventually lost. **35. ... Kg6?! 36. Nd6 b5 37. d5 cxd5 38. c5 Rg2+ 39. Kd3 Rxb2 40. Kc3 Rb1 41. Nxb5?! Kf6 42. Nxa7 Ke5 43. Nc6+ Ke4 44. b4??** 44. Kb4 was necessary. Now Black wins. **44. ... Rh1 45. Na5 d4+ 46. Kd2 Rh2+ 47. Kd1 Kd3 48. Ke1 Kc3, White resigned.** Warmerdam – Dardha, Tata Steel Challengers 2022. **TACTIC 2**. **19. Ne4!** This is best, but also 19. Nxc4! is very strong, for instance, 19. ... Qxc4 20. Qxh6 Nxf6 21. Qg5+ Kf8 22. Qxf6 and White is winning. **19. ... dxe4 20. fxe4** White wants the rook to join in, but also 20. Qxh6 Nxf6 21. Qg5+ Kf8 22. Qxf6 wins for White. **20. ... Nxf6 21. Rxf6 Re6 22. e5** Now both White's queen and bishop will join the attack and the defenders will not be there in time. **22. ... b3 23. axb3 cxb3 24. Bxb3 Rxf6 25. exf6 Kh7** Or 25. ... Kf8 26. Ba4, stopping the king from escaping, followed by Qxh6 with mate to follow. **26. Bc2+** and **Black resigned.** Maurizzi – Dardha, Tata Steel Challengers 2022. **TACTIC 3**. **76. ... Nh8!** Threatening to give a fork on g6, so either White's rook or king has to move. **77. Ke4** Or 77. Rh7 Ng6+ and Black wins the e-pawn with a check, leaving him time to save the h-pawn he needs to win the game. **77. ... Ng6 78. Rh7** Or 78. Re6 Kf7 and the rook will no longer be able to defend the e-pawn. **78. ... Rxe5+ 79. Kd4 h5 80. Rg7 Rg5 81. Rh7 Ne5 82. Rg7 Nf7** and as the rooks come off the board, **White resigned.** Dubov – Grandelius, Tata Steel Masters 2022. **TACTIC 4**. **29. ... Rc8!** In the game, Black played the much weaker **29. ... Qd4??**, allowing White back in the game: **30. Kg2 Qd5 31. Kg1 Rxg3+ 32. fxg3 Rf3 33. Kh2 Qe5 34. Qg2 Qe3 35. Be2 Qxc3 36. Qxf3??** (36. Bxf3 should not lose for White.) **36. ... Qxf3 37. Bxf3 Kf6 38. Kg2 Ke5 39. Bg4 b4 40. Kf2 a5 41. Ke3 d5 42. Kd3 Kd6 43. Kd4 e5+ 44. Kd3 e4+ 45. Kd4 a4 46. Bd1 b3 47. a3 Kc6 48. Kc3 Kc5 49. Bh5 d4+ 50. Kb2 Kc4 51. Bf7+ Kd3 52. Bg6 Ke3 53. Bf5 Kf3 54. Kc1 b2+** and White resigned in Mammadzada – Gallagher, Battle of the Sexes (Gibraltar) 2022. **30. Rxc8** Or 30. Rb3 e5 31. Kh2 e4 and Black wins. **30. ... Rxd3** The point: Black is threatening ... Rd3-d1+ followed by mate on h1. **31. Rc7+ Kd8** and White could have resigned. **TACTIC 5**. **43. Ra3!** The only move to win. If White plays the obvious 43. h7, Black saves a draw with 43. ... Ke6 44. Kf3 Kf5 45. Rf7+ Kg6 46. Ra7, and now not 46. ... Rxh7 which loses but 46. ... Kf5! and White cannot make any progress. **43. ... f3+!?** The h-pawn cannot be captured: 43. ... Rxh6 44. Ra6+, winning the rook with a skewer, whereas 43. ... Ke5 is met by 44. Rh3! f3+ 45. Kg3 Rxh3+ 46. Kxh3 Kf6 47. Kg3 with a won pawn ending for White. **44. Kg3!! Rh1 45. Ra4!** White renews the threat to play the rook to the h-file and the pawn on h6 is untouchable, because of the skewer. **45. ... Rg1+ 46. Kxf3 Rh1 47. Kg3!** Same trick as before. Now White is up two pawns and winning easily. **47. ... Rg1+ 48. Kh2 Rg8 49. h7 Rh8 50. Rh4 Ke6 51. Kg3 Kf5 52. Rh5+ Kg6 53. Kg4 Kf6 54. Rh6+ Kg7 55. Kg5 Kf7 56. Rh4 Kg7 57. Rh3 Kf7 58. Kh6 Ra8 59. Rf3+ Ke6 60. Kg7 Ra7+ 61. Kg8** and **Black resigned.** M. Muzychuk – Rosen, Battle of the Sexes (Gibraltar) 2022. **TACTIC 6**. **19. Qxc4!** Exploiting Black's vulnerable king, not allowing it to castle to safety. **19. ... Bxf2+ 20. Kh1 Qb3** Black should have opted for 20. ... Qb4 21. Qxb4 Rxb4 22. Rxf2 and White has an extra pawn and the better pawn structure which should be enough for White to win. **21. Qc7! Qb6 21**. ... 0–0 would have run into 22. Rab1, winning material after 22. ... Qf7 23. Qxb8! Rxb8 24. Rxb8+ Ne8 25. Rxf2 Qc7 26. Rxe8+ Kf7 27. Rh8 Qxc3 28. Rf1 Qc4 29. Ra1 with an easily won endgame for White. **22. Qxe5+ Kf7 23. Nd5! Nxd5** Or 23. ... Qa7 24. Rxf2 Rhe8 25. Qg3 when White has two extra pawns and is winning. **24. Qxd5+ Ke7 25. Qe5+ Kf7 26. Rac1** and **Black resigned**. Shankland – Karjakin, Tata Steel Masters 2022. **TACTIC 7**. **30. ... Bxc3!! 31. Bxc3 Be4!** The point behind the previous move. White cannot capture the bishop because of ... Qd8-d1+ with mate. **32. Qc1 Bxb1 33. Qxb1 a4!** This was Caruana's second and most important point: Black has an irresistible passed pawn which decides the game in Black's favor the bishop is pretty useless whereas Black's knight can enter at will. **34. h3 a3 35. Kh2 Qa8 36. Qb3 a2 37. Ba1** White tries to create a blockade with the bishop, leaving the queen active in the vain hope for a perpetual check. **37. ... Qa5 38. Kg3 g5** Black wants the knight on h4 but it needs to be protected first. **39. h4** If White plays passively, then Black will slowly but surely penetrate White's defense, for instance, 39. Qc2 Ng6 40. Kh2 Nh4 41. Qd3 Qa8 42. f3 Kg7 43. Qc2 Qa3 and Black is winning. **39. ... gxh4+ 40. Kxh4 Ng6+** The computer gives preference to 40. ... Qe1 e.g., 41. Qxa2 Qh1+ 42. Kg3 h5 43. f4 h4+ 44. Kg4 Qe1 45. Kf3 Ng6 46. Qb2 Ne7 47. Qf2 Qd1+ 48. Qe2 Qxa1 but that line contains too many uncertainties for Caruana to opt for that when he could see a clear path to a win with the text move. **41. Kg3 h5 42. Qb2 Qd8 43. f4 Qh4+ 44. Kf3 Qe1** Now we are getting the same position as in the previous line but without too many options for White to deviate. **45. Qxa2 Nh4+ 46. Ke4 Qf1** and **White resigned.** Black could also have played 46. ... Nf5. A brilliant combination by Caruana. Praggnanandhaa – Caruana, Tata Steel Masters 2022. **TACTIC 8**. **35. ... Nd2+** This check forces mate. In the game, Black opted for the slow win: **35. ... Ra6!? 36. Ra4 Rxa5 37. Rxb4 Nc5 38. Rb8+ Kf7 39. Rh8 Bh3+ 40. Kg1 Ne4 41. Rxh7+ Kf6 42. Rcxe7 Ra1+ 43. Kh2 Be6 44. f5 Kxf5 45. h5 gxh5 46. Rxh5+ Kf6 47. Re8 Bf7 48. Rf8 Rd1 49. Rh4 Rd2+ 50. Kg1 Ng5 51. Rb4 d4 52. Rb7 Kg6 53. Kf1 d3 54. Rd7 Be6 55. Rd4 Nf7 56. Ke1 Re2+ 57. Kd1 Bb3+ 58. Kc1 d2+ 59. Rxd2 Re1+ 60. Rd1 Rxd1** mate in Aziz – Abdumalik Battle of the Sexes (Gibraltar) 2022. **36. Kg1 Re1+ 37. Kh2 Re2+ 38. Kg3 h5** Threatening ... Nd2-e4 mate. **39. f5 g5!** Putting a cork in White's escape route. **40. Rc8+ Kf7 41. hxg5 Nf1+ 42. Kf4 Re4 mate** Very elegant. **TACTIC 9**. **22. Rb4!!** An incredibly strong move. The idea is to play Rb4-g4, followed by c5-c6 and Rg4-g8, trapping Black's king. **22. ... Rxc5?** Not the best but Black aimed to answer 23. Rg4 with ... Rc5-g5. Black's best option was 22. ... Nb7 when White still has to play a lot of precise moves to secure an advantage: 23. Rd1 Rd8 24. Re1 Rd2 25. Rh4 Rad8 26. Rxh7 R8d4 27. c6 Bxc6 28. Rc1 Rxa2 29. Rxc6 Rxa3 30. Rc7 and White has excellent winning chances. **23. Rg4 Rg5 24. h4!** Just because the rook comes off the board does not mean Black's king is safe. **24. ... Rxg4 25. Nxg4 Rc8 26. Rd1! f5 27. Nf6 mate** A beautiful attacking idea. Maurizzi – L. van Foreest Tata Steel Challengers (Wijk aan Zee) 2022.

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PROBLEM 1. Mating net: Black mates in 2**: 1. ... Rh6+ 2. Nh2 Rxh2 mate. PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** Black mates in 2: **1. ... Rxa2+ 2. Kxa2 Qa4 mate. PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** Black mates by 1. **... Qxh3+ 2. Kg1 Qxg2 mate. PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** Black mates by 1. **... Qf2+ 2. Kh1 Qxg2 mate. PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** Black mates in 2: **1. ... Qa1+ 2. Kd2 Qxb2 mate. PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** Black mates by 1. **... Qh1+ 2. Ke2 Qxg2 mate.**

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-90	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

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MY BEST MOVE

J.J. LANG

CHESS AUTHOR, COACH, AND PODCASTER

AS A TEENAGER, MY APPROACH to chess improvement was simple: study tactics, pray for Sicilians, and blame my positional losses on bad luck. When this approach stopped working, I quit playing chess.

Nine years later, I purchased IM Jeremy Silman's *How to Reassess Your Chess* on a whim. I was impressed by Silman's thesis that chess improvement requires psychological reflection, rather than just theoretical knowledge or tactical prowess. This call to vulnerability was reminiscent of work I had done to make sense of my relationship to masculinity. The tendency to take credit for brilliant ideas, while externalizing responsibility for failures, was something I had worked hard to unlearn in my personal life. Suddenly, almost a decade after quitting, I was excited to apply the same lessons to my chess.

Now, I teach, write, and podcast about chess in a way that questions how we think about chess, why we think that way, and how to change it. As an example, here's a game I was resistant to analyzing because the finish was so satisfying. But when I went back to it, I saw indecisive opening play and an initiative I did nothing to earn. I realized I had to figure out why I was afraid to take risks against higher-rated players, since no amount of Puzzle Rush would guarantee that my opponents would develop my bishops for me in future games.

Teenaged J.J. would dig this tactic, though.

SCANDINAVIAN DEFENSE (B01)

J.J. Lang (2075)
Camilo Pangan (2200)
Plus-Score 33 (2), Chicago, 03.02.2019

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. d4 Bg7 5. Bf4 Nxd5 6. Nxd5 Qxd5 7. Nf3 c5 8. Be3 cxd4 9. Bxd4 Qa5+ 10. Qd2?

Here is a candidate for "My Worst Move."

Instead I should have played 10. b4!! Qxb4+ 11. c3, winning serious material. I thought of this game because my dear friend and "the chessfeels podcast" co-host Julia Rios missed a similar tempo-stealing b2–b4 tactic in a recent classical game. When I showed it to her, she asked how I found the odd motif so quickly. Well, missed opportunities have a way of sticking with you.

10. ... Qxd2+ 11. Kxd2 Bh6+ 12. Ke1 0–0 13. Bd3 Nc6 14. Bc3 Be6 15. h4 f6 16. Nd2 Bd5 17. f3 e5 18. h5 Kg7 19. Kf2 Rae8 20. Rae1 Rh8 21. Ne4 Re7 22. hxg6 hxg6 23. Rh3 Be6 24. Rhh1

Played as a provocation. I could live with a draw. Could he live with this diagonal opening up?

24. ... f5 25. Nd6 Rd8?

(see diagram top of next column)

26. Rxe5!

MY BEST MOVE. This is not the most complex combination or candidate move. But how pleasing that it retroactively makes sense of my previous piece-shuffling and timidity.

26. ... Nxe5 27. Bxe5+ Kh7 28. Bf4 Kg7 29. Bxh6+ Kf6 30. f4 Rxd6 31. Bg5+, Black resigned. ✥

You can read archival copies of "My Best Move" on ***uschess.org***, click on "Chess Life Magazine," and then "Archives."

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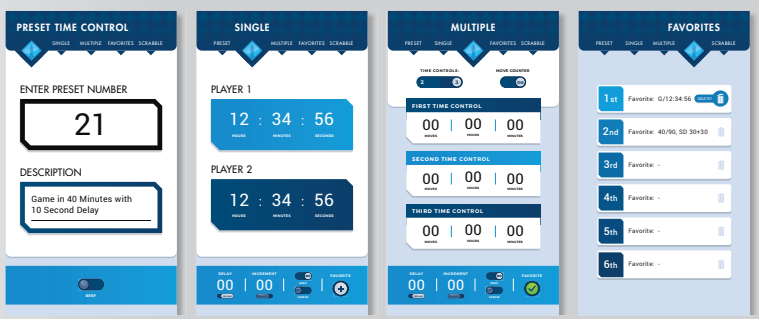

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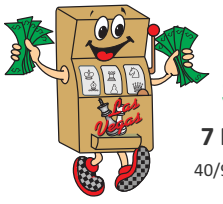

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